



PALAUVER

FOUNDED BY
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SKP#16549
1998

THE ORIGINAL RANCH - PO BOX 109 - LAKEWOOD, NM

VOLUME XV NUMBER 5

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

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HOUSE SITTING

Soren and I are currently (August) house sitting at The Ratznest. Bev and Lenny (former leaseholders are down in Nebraska so we are “farm sitting”.

Since leaving The Ranch we have been in Brighton,CO for a long weekend to see the children and grands, then to SD for Soren’s B-day with his brothers from Denmark. We had a good week with them and got another chance to play “travel guides”. Hans especially enjoyed the sites. I think Sven got a little bored. We took them to Wild Horse Rescue Center near Hot Springs. I think that was the biggest hit for both brothers.

Dog lovers, you would get a big kick out of Missy. She brought home a ground squirrel. I was soaking wet, probably because she carried it in her mouth. It was still alive, last time Soren saw it. Tonight she discovered toads. What a joke.

Bev and Lenny will be back on Sunday and we will leave here on Thursday. We plan to go to the Chicago area to meet AJ’s mother. AJ was the other marine we sent care packages to a few years ago.

While there, Soren wants to go to the Elks National Headquarters. That should be interesting. From there, we will drop down to Elkhart,In for the Gypsy Journal Rally, the Elks BOF Rally and then the Escapade.

In September, we plan to go to Florida to spend time with Chris, John and my youngest daughter, Sheryl and her family who are just now moving down to the area. Chris needs more help than she is getting thru the VA.

I don’t know when we’ll be back at The Ranch. We hope everyone is having a good summer.

Hugs to all.
Barb& Soren
Lot # 10

A NEW TRAVEL

In July, we spent our children's inheritance and went on a two week trip to Germany. It was a guided tour, sponsored by our church on Fort Collins CO. The one objective was to visit the Passion Play in Oberammergau. We had a direct flight from Denver to London on British Airways and then changed planes to Berlin. When we landed there, the temperature was in the upper 90's with equal humidity. It made it seem like the devil must have air conditioning. Luckily, our hotel was air conditioned, but not much else was. It was a 'record heat wave' so the news said. Our guide had all these walking tours arranged for us in that heat; consequently, our opinion of Berlin isn't too high.

Once we left there, we traveled in fine Mercedes buses (air conditioned) and when we got out in the country, it was still warm but more tolerable. We saw castles, cathedrals, walled cities, and formal gardens; walked over 500 hundred miles; ate schnitzel, strudel and brats plus the huge breakfast spread at the hotel each morning.

The German countryside is as charming as all the calendar pictures. One of the highlights for us old fools was the Salt Mine in Salzburg, Austria where we got to go down a long steep slippery slide from one level to another, Norm took about 1700 digital pictures but we promise not to make anyone look at ALL of them.

We did indeed go to the Passion Play – all six hours of it. It is in German but they give you an English translation to follow. However, the words come out a bit different – at one point, the guards tell the disciples to “Get Lost”. It was an awesome production, done only every 10 years. Our only glitch was when we left London to come home and the plane developed ‘mechanical problems’ and we had to sit on the tarmac for over 4 hours before they finally rescheduled our flight for the next day and we had to de-plane, pick up our luggage, get assigned to a Hotel, and ride a bus for an hour; it was after 1 AM when we finally got to our room.

There aren't enough superlatives to describe the trip, but all in all, we must say RV travel is still much easier!

Auf Weidersehen
Norm & Shirley Partch
Lot #5

CAMPHOSTING

Craig and I have been up in North Dakota for a while and we are workamping at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora. We are in the South Unit campground. This is our first “job” since we started full-timing. Our duties are to raise the flag in the morning and bring it back down at night, do campground rounds and see that all the campers are happy and answer any questions they might have. My, we do get some strange questions, like “Are those buffalo wild?” or “Who owns the horses here?” We also give weather reports and alert the campers if there will be severe weather. Then we get the question, “When will it start raining?” But all in all we are enjoying our time here at TRNP. The only drawback is that we do not have any cell or internet service when we are in our camp site. We have to drive five miles down to Medora. Then we can get free internet from the Rough Rider Hotel and our cell phone service is back.\

When we left The Ranch we went to Converse Texas to our son's house and had a nice visit there with our grandchildren, son and daughter. We all went to Canyon Lake on a long weekend and had fun camping and using the lake. Our son has a wave runner and we all took turns going for a ride. Son Craig took me out for a spin and did a little “hot dogging” and dumped us both in the middle of the lake. I was just glad no one could see me trying to climb back on the wave runner. Not exactly my most graceful move, I just couldn't stop laughing at myself. Finally I got back on and we headed for shore.

We will be here in North Dakota till the middle of September, then head south as the snow flies early in these parts. Maybe we will see you in the fall.

Safe travels to all
Craig, Gale, and Samson too
Lot # 78

(From my experience those were some of the saner questions. Also Gale sent this to me and she sent it on Ranch Ramblings so some of you may have already read it.

REMEMBER OUR LOST SOULS FROM 9-11 AND KEEP OUR PRAYERS AND HOPE GOING TO ALL WHO SUFFER FROM PREJUDICE, INJUSTICE, AND ANTAGONISM.

HIGHLIGHTS

Trinidad, CO – spent two days looking at historic homes and learning about the area. There is a wonderful statue of a canary in a cage, a reminder that the canaries were used in the mines to detect methane gas, warning miners to evacuate before they could be affected.

Ogallala, NB – Toured Buffalo Bill Cody's "Scouts Rest Ranch" . Saw a wonderful exhibit about the Canteen Center in North Platte. For about 4 1/2 years, 24 hours a day, during World War II, the ladies of North Platte met every troop train that went thru town. The trains stopped for 10 minutes and the troops were given sandwiches, cookies, birthday cake and coffee. Nearby towns also contributed, and no one was reimbursed or paid for all that they did. An inspiring story of unselfish dedication. Visited Julesburg CO where Bob spent several summers helping his uncle harvest wheat.

Scotts Bluff, NB – chimney Rock stands out from such a distance, we could understand why the pioneers used it as a beacon along the way. The top of Scotts Bluff gave a birds eye view of the area. We learned about the sugar beet industry at a farm museum.

Crawford, CO – Fort Robinson State Park is great. Rode a stagecoach, and after a 20 minute ride we could understand how rough the real ride must have been. The Museum of the Fur Trade in nearby Chadron was so comprehensive, a recommended "must visit". Agate Fossil Nat'l Monument was interesting and the ride thru the Pine Ridge area was beautiful. Drove thru Harrison, population 291. A sign outside town said "Harrison Next 4 Exits". Loved someone's sense of humor. We enjoyed our several Drives thru the sand hills area. No trees, grass everywhere, vistas, few people. This is really out in the boonies, -wheat fields, sunflowers, corn and cattle.

Mullen, NB – a highlight of the trip. We went tanking!. We floated the Middle Loop River in an 8 foot stock tank. You can't steer around objects, so even with paddles we bounced off banks and slowly went round and round as we went down the river.

Bismark, ND – Now August 23 and we are revisiting this area where Bob lived for several years. Then on to Medora, ND where we will visit Gale and Craig Anderson who are working at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. We will start our way south hoping to see Norm and Shirley patch and Milo and Bettie Marquardt in Co before heading to Sante Fe.

Observations – We have stayed at state and national parks whenever we can. Not much cheaper but the surroundings are so much better. The wind blows everywhere, not just at The Ranch. Do as many different and unusual things as possible, we may not be this way again. If you go to museums and read EVERY bit of information, you learn a lot of new things. Talk to the locals, they can tell you many stories that aren't in those museums. Be happy.

Hugs

Bob and Marilyn

Lot # 30

MAINE WITH GRANDSON

We have been in Maine since the idle of June. Have done lots of fishing from Kayaks and have caught lots of brook trout and splake (a cross between a lake trout and a brook trout). Maine Fish & Game stocks a lot of ponds and lakes with splake. Funny name but good fighting fish and great eating. Don't know how long we will be here but we do have some routine doctor stuff that we have scheduled. Thought I'd tell you about a little camping trip we took with our youngest grandson.

Carmen and I wanted to spend some quality time with our youngest grandson, Devin. We thought camping at a secluded campsite would be perfect. I looked at a few State campgrounds but with the restrictions (no Pets) and a reservation system that has all sites occupied from Friday thru Sunday and empty the rest of the week, the State run campgrounds were out of the question for a stay of more than four days. My oldest son, Gary, told us of a campground North and East of Eroll, NH on Aziscohos Lake in Maine that sounded perfect. Although the sites were primitive they were secluded, nestled under a canopy of trees a mile from the access road, and each site had a footpath to the lakeside. Sounded perfect so my son and I visited the campground. They had easily accessible full hook-up sites but they were tiny, cramped and not near the lake so off to visit the remote "primitive" sites. Most of these were large enough to accommodate a 35 ft fifth wheel, but there was no way you could maneuver a rig that size on all but one lot. I took a real close look at site 35 and decided that yes I could get my rig on there? The site was some 65 feet long and just wide enough to extend our slides at the bottom of the site. It was critical to be correct as once you were on the campground road (?) there was no turning back unless you could get on a campsite. THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK. I informed the owner that I could get on site 35 if he trimmed a couple of branches on the entrance to the site. He informed me he would and I reserved the site and looked forward to a great camping and fishing trip.

So several weeks later the three of us left Wilton with fifth wheel in tow looking forward to this great camping experience. The campground access road is a wide dirt road off route 16. We arrived at the office and I was told that all the campsites were filled. I informed her that I had reservations for East Shore Campsite #35. "OH my God!" the lady (turned out to be the owner), "who said you could get a rig that size in there, there must be some mistake" I informed her that I had visited the site and that I could get the rig on that site. I asked if the branches had been trimmed on the entrance and they replied by asking me if I had a "pull saw". Nope, not in my tool bag. With the "pull saw" and the gate combination we were off to our "secluded" campsite.

As we were driving on the dirt road to the access road Carmen said "what was she talking about, this road's not bad". I replied that we were on the "highway" that gave access to the campground "road". When I turned onto the access road Carmen said, "You're not taking my RV down there", I replied, "no just my half". The campground road was a generous 10 feet wide, with tight curves, lots of potholes and lots of low overhanging tree branches. We twisted and bounced our way down, a distance of about a mile, to the campsite in a long 20 minutes. And nobody had trimmed the low branch preventing me from getting on the campsite. Aaaa quickly discovered why the owner called the telescoping pole pruner "pull tool". The dang thing was so dull that it only pretended to cut on the pull stroke and the push stroke only caused it to stick and bend, kusta belonged to his great, great grandfather. Did manage to wear the branch down to

a point where I could break it off. Ten I maneuvered the rig onto the campsite, leveled the thing, let out the slides and VOILA there we were.

I had forgotten just how dark it is under a "canopy" of trees. We needed a flashlight to find our way around at midday. But that was OK. We could spend out time down at the "beach". We followed the path to the "beach" and discovered that the rocky coast of Maine was right there on our "beach". Hey, can't have everything.

I rented a "power boat", I use the "power" VERY loosely here, to do some fishing on the lake. Although I was unfamiliar with the lake I was told that the lake had salmon and lake trout. I went to the office to get the boat I had reserved sight unseen, a fourteen foot long five foot wide behemoth tub "powered" by an eight horsepower outboard. I wasn't aware it leaked until I was out on the lake. Naturally with all that horsepower the nose of the boat was what seemed like a hundred feet in the air with me sitting in the back not knowing or seeing where I was going with more and more water coming into the boat. I discovered that the "drain" plug was letting water in as it did not appear to be seated properly. Easy fix, pull it out and reseat it... big mistake even better when I managed to drop it and was not able to locate the thing. Two choices, keep going and reach my destination before there was too much water on the boat or stop and search for the plug. The inability to steer the boat because of all the water in the back made my decision. I found the plug and resealed it so that it leaked only a little, bailed out the boat and continued on to our "beach". Where Have you been", Carmen asked when I finally arrived at the campsite. Just a slow boat I said.

We had a great week with our grandson. Had forgotten what it is like to have a nine year old around. Still don't understand how a nine year old boy can get you so tired. Needed a "vacation" after the vacation. Lots of swimming, fishing, campfires and roasted marshmallows. But all good things come to an end, and the day to leave was too soon upon us. Getting on the campsite was difficult, getting off was impossible. I knew I could get the RV on the site - I wasn't so sure about getting back out again. If I could turn make a left hand turn I was golden...huh, not even close, bad judgment Roland. So now I had to make a right with no way to turn the RV around. There was no way to go forward as the road narrowed to a footpath. Carmen said, "how are you going to get MY HALF of out of here?" "I'll just back have to back my half up about half a mile, your half will follow along and I can turnaround, no problem". Now backing up is easy..... usually. Backing a rig on a potholed, twisty, narrow, rock strewn trail is another thing. It seemed a to take a lifetime to reach a point where I could get the rig pointed to the exit. I was successful however, and managed not to break anything, saved my marriage once again. When we finally reached the gate I said, "I am 71 years old, I did it, I don't ever have to do it again". Where Carmen replied, "You will NEVER put my half of the RV in a place like that....NEVER? Yes dear, Ah the joys of RV'ng. Travel safe
Love to all
Roland & Carmen
Lot # 82

A WHOLE YEAR

It's been more than a year since we've done an update so here goes...As you may recall, I accepted a long-term contract in Reno, NV, in April of 2009 and that's pretty much where we have been ever since. It was expected to last 2 to 4 years (hopefully into retirement) and with the job market in a free-fall, we were prepared to cut back on traveling and sit it out in one spot rather than do his preferred shorter contracts and risk not finding work because no one was hiring.

While in Reno, we enjoyed relatively mild climate (2 winter snowstorms our first winter and only 2 days above 100 in the summer of 09), and managed to find plenty to do while exploring the area. We've enjoyed shows by the Smothers, Oak Ridge Boys, Menopause, the Musical, a Broadway show of Cabaret, and the high energy musical 50's music/dance of Shake, Rattle and Roll. There's plenty of food related events in the area and we've been to the International Chicken-Wing Cook-Off, Italian Festival, and The Best in the West Rib Cook-Off and discovered plenty of good restaurants in the area. We've gone to such fun things as the Carson City Rendezvous (with Pony Express, Mountain Man, and Civil War encampments, and Native American themes), the Riverfest (Kayak races and challenges), Hot August Nights (a week of classic cars and rock'n'roll concerts), a balloon festival, air races (including a thrilling exhibit by Blue Angels), and the 50th Annual Camel and Ostrich Races in Virginia City (which is quite a hoot if you ever get to see it). Short trips have included weekends in Eugene, OR to visit a friend, Lassen Volcanic NP, Eagle Lake in CA, Yosemite NP, and short jaunts closer to home.

One major event of the year was celebrating our 20th wedding anniversary in Hawaii a month early, over Thanksgiving week. Flew into Hawaii and took a seven night cruise on Norwegian Cruise Lines' Pride of America, where we had a great time. Did everything from ziplining to snorkeling, 2 helicopter flights (including an open door one over the volcanoes that was just great, a submarine dive over a coral reef, and sightseeing trips to Haleahala Center and NP and Waimea Canyon and—of course—attended a luau on Thanksgiving night. Before flying back to Reno, we were able to squeeze in a tour of Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona Memorial, a sobering way to end the trip. I told Bill he needs to concentrate on finding a job contract in Hawaii so we can spend more time exploring that island paradise...

Seeing that life in the contract world is never certain and projects/funding can get cut, we were a little surprised when Bill received word that this job would end on July 30. We had friends coming from Arizona to attend Hot August Nights so we hung around an extra ten days and then packed up our considerable accumulation of "stuff" and headed back to The Ranch in early August. Those of you who were brave enough to endure the summer there heard Pat's tale of woe as she drove the van back to New Mexico and suffered thru problems of overheating and having to drive with heat on full blast and the windows open... suffice it to say she was NOT a happy camper! After a quick two day visit to swap some things out (and leave the van/kayaks/bicycles behind) we left the dry heat of the desert and headed into the humidity on a major road trip to accomplish several goals. Our first major stop was in Memphis so Pat could renew her driver's license and we took time to check out Mud Island with its neat museums and scale model of the Mississippi River system. As well as a rib dinner at the famous Rendezvous restaurant. We then spent a week in the Chicago area (Pat's hometown) to visit friends and some of her elderly relatives since it had been ten years since our last trip back there. We're now visiting friends in the Minneapolis area and staying in a nice country park in Apple Valley. When we leave here we planned quick stops at the Corn Palace, the Badlands, and Wall Drug on our way to the Oregon Coast, where we'll spend most of September, winding up with Redwoods NP and Crater Lake.

Although our original plan was to end up back at The Ranch the beginning of October while Bill continued his job search, life took another of those funny turns when he got a call from his boss from the Reno job asking if he'd like to come back at least through the end of the year and possibly longer seeing as the funding situation has improved. SO... we're going to make do with only one vehicle for the time being and return back to Reno for an October 1 start date, which actually works out quite well seeing we've already paid for an SKP HOP for the Rose Parade at the end of the year. After that, who knows... although we've got a cruise in Alaska planned in May of 2011 and the small ships of National Geographic/Lindblad cruises.

Oh well, guess that's about it from our end of the world. Looks like it might be a while longer before we get back to New Mexico again after all. Whether you're out on the road or holding down the fort in Lakewood, stay safe and healthy!

Hugs,
Pat Gorsach & Bill Kukes
And Samantha the Kamper Kitty
Lot # 106 Windmill Vista

AROUND THE RANCH

It has been a very different summer here at The Ranch, although perhaps some of the original lease holders (Ranch Hands) may have known one like this. The humidity has been too high for the swamp cooler in the Ranch House to do any good. We have had more than our share of rain and the now very green desert shows it. Yes I said green dessert. Everywhere you can look the fields are green with bushes, grass and waist high weeds. No one would believe we live in a desert.

Of course with the green the weeds tend to run wild and they are impossible to keep gone. Spray them one day and they are dead the second day. With just a few drops of rain on the third day everyone of them is in bloom again.

There are some new sights on The Ranch and some old standard sights are really missed. Site # 94 looks bare without Cass and Bob's truck and car filling in the spaces under the tree. Part of their front porch can now be seen on Charles and Paula's lot. The folks from lot #75 have come home to roost for at least awhile and seem very nice. Lot #21 is empty but not always as it is frequently filled by visitors Phil and Nancy who hope to become lease holders soon.

Lago Vista is, as so frequently happens, almost empty. Only have some one in Lot # 1 and Lot #7. Lot #6 has a rig and truck but just being borrowed by some friends. Oh yes lot # 2 came in for a few days, left and are back for a bit.

Except for early mornings there is not much traffic in the park since the temperature is in the high nineties most days and very few like to tramp around in the heat and humidity.

There are even more changes with new porches (both wooden and metal) and plantings on the individual lots as well as in The Wedge and Central Park West now has greenery along with several gravel walking paths thanks to Richard and Richard.

When all you wanderers come home you may not recognize some lots but you will know you are back home at The Ranch.

**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY**

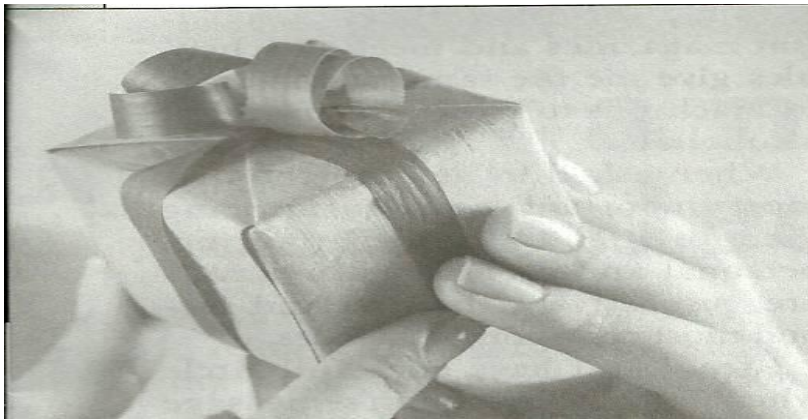
BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

DON RANES 1
TAFFY LEVIN 7
LES SIMMS 7
ELLEN MC CONNELL 11
MARTHA NYMAN 15
JOHN GLEASON 18
BARBARA PRUETT 24
JOANN MAUCK 27
BARBARA WALTHERS 28

OCTOBER

CHICKIE RUNDALL 1
JOE CHERRY 5
CHARLES BUTLER 7
PAT GORSACH 7
JUDY TODD 9
HARRY FISHEL 12
MERRILLEE MAGER 13
CATHY GLEASON 14
DEAN MINARD 19
BOB NYMAN 25
SALLY STRIBLING 25
PAT BUSCH 26
JUDY FAGAN 29
RON PARDEE 29



ANNIVERSERIES

SEPTEMBER

RICHARD & MELODY BAKER 18
LINDA & BILL GOOD 30

OCTOBER

CHUCK & NETTIE HASSE 10
BOB & HELEN ABBOTT 12

CONGRADULATIONS

PALAVAR
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HAPPY HALLOWEEN