

HAT CREEK RENDEZVOUS - Caravan 33 - Leaders Burnes

Sept 15 - 24, 1987 - 9 nights, 998 miles, \$321 (Browns)
Members: Benjamin, Burnes, Hoffmans, Gormans, Dahmes, Browns
Donalds, Messingers, Schneiders, Davi's, Pettis's, Kellonds
Comries, Leippers, Olivers.

All of those listed above spent at least some time at Hat Creek. We Browns & some of the others spent the full time. In fact, the Gormans, Hoffmans, Dahmes, & we Browns met at the Meyer's home for a three day Mini-Rally prior to Hat Creek. We then moved up to Redding for a two night stop at the Bear Valley RV Park. Here we visited our former members, the Bill Humperts, and the Dahme's Daughter & family.

Sept 15, 1987: Headed for the group area at Hat Creek. Found some of our other members already there. Others arrived during the day. Fire wood was gathered and we settled down to Tile Games & idle chatter. And of course the usual & always present CAMPFIRE. Served a fine Hamburger dinner with Champagne to celebrate Joe's Birthday and the new Schneider trailer.

Sept 16: Local hiking & exploring. Lots of stream fishing. Played Bridge.....Tile.....sat & talked. The next day several of the men drove to the Power House & to Baum Lake to test the fishing. POOR! Some of the ladies arrived later. Ruth had taken Faye to "the Hat Lady Display" so she too could buy some of these infamous Hat Creek Hats. Pot luck dinner that evening. Campfire & more chatter.

Sept 18: This was the day for our usual visit to Lava Creek Lodge, a fine lunch and the Croquet Tournament which has become a classic. Not much being said this year as that Gerry Pettis won top honors, beating all comers including our strongest men. May "drum" her out of the club. Did lots of sight-seeing on the drive home.

In the following days the campfires consumed lots of firewood. Many hikes taken. Bridge & Tile was played, and of course lots of fine food done away with. And the usual visit was made to Uncle Runt's Place for dinner.

And we had visitors. Was nice to have the Humperts drive into camp. Both Bill Jr. & Sr. with Nona. And the Connell's daughter visited one day. Ditto the Dahme's daughter.

And the days rolled by. More hiking....sight-seeing....cards & Tile. Made run up to Mt. Lassen.

Sept 24: Left for home, ending a wonderful few days in this beautiful part of Northern California. The nights have been quite cold but the days very pleasant. And all this with a wonderful group of good friends. How can you beat all this.



HOB0 RALLY Caravan No. 34 - Leaders Harrisons. Feb 5-15, '88
Ten days, 1203 miles, \$427.00 spent (Browns)
Members: Harrisons, Penners, Browns, Hoffmans, Dahmes. plus
several Santa Clara Unit Members. Sorry, don't have names.

This was Ed Harrison's year as President of MBCU and he organized this caravan to cover our trip to the National Hobo Rally at Blyth, Calif. He invited the Santa Clara Unit to join us. No records seem to have been kept but believe there were fifteen units in the group.

We gathered at Santa Nella and headed on down to the Fairgrounds in Bakersfield. A very nice facility with full hook-ups, on lawn, for \$7.50 a night. Weather perfect.

Feb 6: Moved for two night stay at Desert Center. Charlie Penner, his brother Jack, and brother-in-law Ray Anderson all own lots here and it was nice seeing them again. While here, the Dahmes & Browns drove out to the Asparagus Farm and bought "tons" of the freshest, best, and cheapest asparagus ever seen. Enjoyed it for days.

Feb 8: A warm sunny day as we drove down to Blyth & the Rally Site. Earl & Jerry Pettis joined us as we drove in. Were happy to find the Webbers all set up and we looked up Glen Cox's brother, J. C. Cox. Of course visited Irwin & Viola Lowrey.

Enjoyed many excellent programs during Rally, some outstanding. Some breakfasts....some "meals out". And of course the famous Hobo Stew, only served if you had a tin can for your bowl. Many of these cans decorated, and judged at a separate time. Ours won nothing!

On the last day we all dressed up (or down) to enter the Hobo Parade & later the costume contest. After the parade and at the judging Ruth was kept on stage right down to the final two.....she & this other woman. The other won, so Ruth was the Runner-up as the Hobo Queen. She had to promise to be at next year's Rally in case the Queen herself could not make it.

Feb 14: Left for home, with lunch stop at Kramer's Corners, and overnight back at the fine Bakersfield Fairgrounds. Then home the next day.

It was a good Rally with GREAT ENTERTAINMENT, and the Caravan served it's purpose of getting us there & back.

Reported by Lloyd, with help of Ruth's Diary, June '95

GRAND OLD OPRY CARAVAN

MARCH 27 - JUNE 2, 1988

Caravan 35, the Grand Old Opry Caravan, was the "MBCU initiation trip" for Nina Hadden. She has been a loyal caravanner ever since, so the experience must have been a good one.

The caravan left from the Los Banos rally March 27, 1988, and included Nina, Joe and Shirley Gorman, Bob and Alma Connell and Jay and Marian Leith (leaders). Sid and Esther Grossman were originally to be part of the group but had to withdraw at the last minute.

Highlights of the putbound trip included Happy Hour and dinner at the Mexican restaurant in Yuma with Helen Weber, overnight at the Cox residence in Las Cruces (after emergency repairs by Glen and Bob on Jay's trailer brakes), a visit to Ft. Davis en route to Big Bend National Park, "The law west of the Pecos" Judge Roy Bean's bar in Langtry, and Joe's sprint down the freeway for gas in San Antonio. Sightseeing in San Antonio and Natchez, then up the Natchez Trace ^{Parkway} to Nashville.

The Grand Old Opry Rally in Nashville was an enjoyable experience we all will remember, and included time for sightseeing, tickets to the radio show and a visit to the Opryland Hotel and theme park.

Leaving Nashville the caravan headed east to Atlanta (sightseeing again, and through Bob's magic touch, free drinks at the Hyatt Regency), Savannah (more sightseeing), Charleston (still more sightseeing), and Asheville. Meanwhile Joe and Shirley headed to Florida to visit family --they would rejoin us later on the return leg of the caravan.

Enjoyed the Blue Ridge Parkway from Asheville into Virginia. Sightseeing in Virginia included Appomattox Courthouse, Charlottesville

Con't. from other side.

and Monticello, Richmond, Williamsburg and Washington D.C. Then on to Philadelphia and Gettysburg (where we were evacuated during a heavy rainstorm which flooded our campsites).

Heading westward from the Pennsylvania Dutch country Jay and Marian made a side trip to visit family in Chicago and Wisconsin, rejoining the others in Pueblo Colorado. From there the group broke up for the return to California, logging a total of 71 days and approximately 11,000 miles.

Reported in July 1995 by Jay Leith from his notes

SALEM Caravan No. 36 - Leaders Dahmes - May 22/June 3, 1988
1827 Miles - \$676 Spent including repairs (Browns)
Members: Dahmes, Leiths, Hoffmans, Browns, Benjamin,
Harrisons, Meyers.

May 22, 1988: Caravan 36 left the Donald Ranch in Scotts Valley following the MBCU Monthly Rally. A very successful gathering with the "Song Man" Gerolds from S. Carolina at this Rally. A gopher trapping contest was only one of many activities of this Rally. Not one to brag, but.....(Brown caught five!)

Our first caravan stop was at Oroville. A nice quiet park for \$11.00 a night. Did laundry...joint dinner with left over salad from Rally. (Should have stole the wine!) Our second day brought us to Ashland, Ore., and a nice wooded park. After dinner served Ruth's Rum Cake & Ed's Ice Cream to celebrate Amye's Birthday.

May 24: Nice easy drive of 260 miles to Blue River. Made a lunch stop at the Hendricks Wayside Park, one of Oregon's finest. Then on to a very nice RV Park managed by No Cal friends of the Dahmes. As a two night stop there was time for laundry, sight-seeing, shopping, etc. Took one very interesting Nature Trail hike. Weather has been fine. Now clouding over.

May 26: In light rain moved up to Salem and the Airstream Company Rally. About 250 rigs here. About twice this number expected and Airstream made no secret that this would be their last such event. The rain settled in. The scheduled rally Programs could be rated from Very Good, to Good, and to Poor. Dahmes & Browns drove over one day to visit old Totem Trailer Friends, the Ken Sawyers who own Oregon property with pad for their trailer.

May 30: The rally finished last evening and we headed South arriving in time for lunch at the Tillemook Cheese Factory. Then moved out to the Coast and a two night stop at Look-Out Cape. Nice spot with easy walk to beach. At bath time that first evening the Hot Water Tank burst and water flooded under the bed. All further Caravan plans ended for the Browns and they headed off next morning for the Airstream Dealer in Eugene, Ore.

Even had car trouble on the way and used up an extra few hours getting the alternator replaced. Have nothing but praise for the Airstream dealer who fixed us up. Then on homeward by ourselves. Easy going but sure missed the company of our fine Caravan Group.

Reported June 1995 by Lloyd from Ruth's Diary.

HAT CREEK RENDEZVOUS Caravan No. 37 - Leaders Schneiders
Sept 6 - 14, 1988 - No details of miles or money spent.
Members: Burnes, Paxtons, Browns, Schneiders, Olivers,
Benjamin, Dahmes, Pettis's, Leiths, Leippers, Messingers.

Sept 6, 1988 - Browns left their Los Gatos Home and drove to Hat Creek. Happy to see the familiar iron gate with the MBCU Reserved sign. Even happier to be greeted by the Burnes & Paxtons who were already set up and all comfortable.

Sept 7: The rest of our group arrived following their overnight stop near Corning. Of course loaded down with olives.

Then followed the usual campfires, trout fishing, card playing, Tile games, and hikes to the interesting places around us. The Scatter Cone Trail.....the Lava Tube Caves, etc.

And of course the Burney Falls run. Fall River Mills. Lava Creek Lodge for lunch. And dinner at Uncle Runt's Place. And many group breakfasts & dinners right in camp. And how about that original French "Bocchi Ball" game run by Bob Oliver. And the traditional MBCU Caravan Barber Shop set up by Benjamin & Brown. Those were brave soles who put up with one of these haircuts. But the price was right. And lets not forget that "five year" Hat Creek Birthday cake brought out by Bob Oliver.

Sept 14: Thus ended a fun & relaxed time at this Hat Creek Rendezvous. Most headed home.....some joined Caravan No. 38 which was now heading North.



Reported in 1995 by Lloyd from Ruth's 1988 Diary.

OREGON Caravan No. 38 - Leaders Comries. Sept 10 - 25, 1988
Combined Caravans 37 & 38 - 1399 miles 3 weeks \$1,399 Brown
Members on No. 38: Comries, Browns, Dahmes, Beasleys, Davi's
Ginters, Pettises.

The Comries & Davi's drove North from Monterey. The Beasleys joined them further North. Then the Ginters drove West from Sacramento. We Browns, with the Dahmes, Left Hat Creek at the end of that gathering, and drove West through Redding and spent their first night at the Grey Falls Forestry Campground near Weaverville. A beautiful camp with warmer weather than Hat Creek. Of course tried out the fishing in world famous Trinity River.....no comment!

Next day drove on out to Hwy 101 at Acadia, then north to establish camp at Prairie Creek State Park. What a beautiful place. The next morning we were off for a few days stay on the Klamath, up stream in the Glen. Rook's RV Park on the Terwer Riffle has been a favorite spot of we Browns for over fifty years. Steelhead fishing, you know.

Soon looked up Viola & Erwin Lowrey who had their Airstream parked close by. And even more important, had their jet boat tied up at the dock. The three ladies were soon at the Tile Game & we men were out fishing in the boat. Ah, this is the life. And fishing was good.

Next day found us all picking wild blackberries, exploring Klamath, driving up to Crescent City..... enjoying fish barbecues, and of course some fishing. Irwin's boat was very fast and he took the ladies for a spin upstream. Was all the way up to Blue Creek & back in a couple of hours. In the old days it took us all day.

Happy to see the rest of the Caravan drive in the next day. Lots of chatter at Happy Hour followed by still another fish barbecue. Getting tired of the damn stuff.

Sept 20: Irwin took Guido & Lloyd fishing in the Jet. The rest of our group picked more berries, explored, played Tile, and the day was soon gone. Next morning, said our farewells to the Lowrys and moved up to Coos Bay. We were soon scouting the clam beds....checking the pier for our Crabbing operations, and checking the restaurants for dinner arrangements. Guido's friend came by and arrangements were made to go out in his boat. In particular, Russ seemed to have great quantities of crab which he gave us. Delicious! The next day Don, Guido & Russ brought in still more crabs & clams from their boat trip. Russ also seemed to be well stocked with tomatoes from his own garden...Great.

Sept 26: Left for home with an overnight stop at Ukiah. Ruth's notes show: "Came home with crab, berries, salmon, & lemons. All we could eat of each!"

Thus ended three great weeks of outdoor living!

Reported in 1995 by Lloyd from Ruth's 1988 Diary.

WHITE SANDS Caravan No. 39 - Leaders Leiths
Jan 22 - Feb 14, 1989 - 23 days, 2798 miles \$852 (Browns)
Members: Benjamin, Browns, Connells, Gormans, Grossmans,
Haddin, Hoffmans, Leippers, Leiths, Paxtons, Schneiders

Jan 22, 1989: The Caravan left the MBCU Jan Lodi Rally with heavy fog in the Stockton area. First overnight stop at Lost Hills KOA. This being Super Bowl Sunday Joe & Bob Connell parked their trailers "fore & aft", awnings out, to form an enclosure & set out two TV sets. Formed cash pool & we all rooted game (49's won in final 30 sec). Ruth & Jay were the cash winners. Cool weather, H/H in bldg upstairs.

Next morning scraped ice from windshield before departure for Tamirisk Campsite. Found place limited to 24' Max length trailers. Left note for the missing Leippers and moved on to Palm Canyon State Park.

Two nights with full hook-ups.

Boy, those great electric blankets. Have moved H/H up to 4:30...canceled outside meals. Spent two days with hikes, sight-seeing, at Museum learned that Cresote Bush is oldest living thing on Earth.

Jan 26: Country Roads RV Park in Yuma next stop. The Webbers & Grossmans soon made their appearance. Nice visits followed. Dinner at Mexican place. Happy Hours out in the sunshine. Group meals there in camp. Sid & Orve played golf. All kept busy.

Jan 29: The Grossmans joined us, but we left the Webbers. Moved on to Organ Pipes Nat'l Mont. Weather perfect. Hiked the trails, Bird watched, "did" the Visitor Center, and played Tile. All kept very busy. The first night Jay furnished supplies for H/H in celebration of Marian's Birthday. We spent one day crossing the Border to visit the little Mexican town of Sonoita. A real FUN stop.

Feb 1: Off for Tucson and our four night stop at the Rincon Country West Park. Top Notch RV Park. With nice weather we could sit out and enjoy many group meals in camp. Visited some good Restaurants. Did lots of sight-seeing. The Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum was outstanding. Altho' a "tourist trap" the visit to Tucson Old Town was interesting. So many Western Films have been made here. There was even a lively Gun-Fight...Shoot-Out while we were there. One body was carried off.



-OVER -

Con't. from other side:

Feb 4: Left Tucson. Were all looking forward to our visit with Chris & Glen Cox. Enjoyed a stop at the Tumacacori Nat'l Monument, a 1691 Mission that was active until 1840. Then on to the KOA in Las Cruces and to find the Coxes waiting to welcome us. What a great Happy Hour and barbecue dinner that evening.

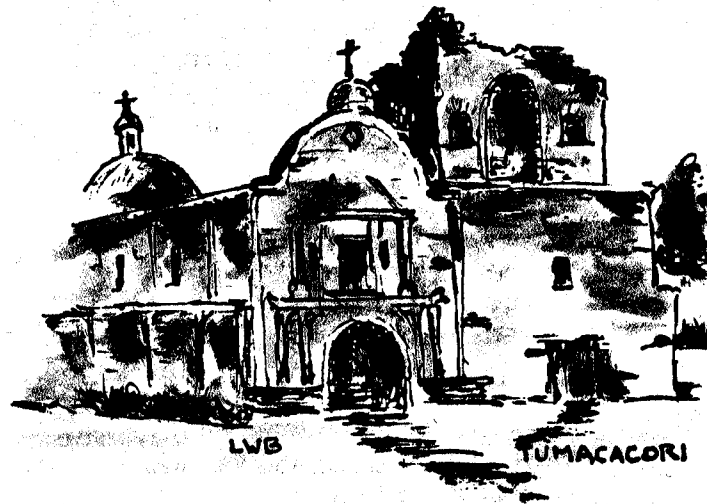
Can't say enough for all the wonderful things they did for us during our Las Cruces stay. Sight seeing trips.... interesting visits, and that great day across the Border. Glen had Mexican Taxi Cabs all reserved on the US side at El Paso. Then led us down, we parked our cars, climbed in, and were given a two hour tour of Juarez. And that tour of the Pecan Packing Plant. And the school attended by the Olivers when children.

And that WONDERFUL reception they organized at their home with many of the Southern New Mexico WBCCI Unit present. What a nice gesture.

Feb 7: Has turned very cold. Woke up to snow, Glen swears it has never happened before. Canceled our White Sands visit because of reported ice in the Pass. We Browns received a phone call from our Son back in Santa Cruz that they too had been having extreme cold.....water pipes burst at our Los Gatos Home.

Jay reported this would be the end of the formal Caravan No. 39, and gave out the plaques. Of course this called for a fine party and sad good-bys were expressed. Several returned West as a group, we headed straight home by the fastest route, and to those broken pipes. Must report that things turned warmer from then on.

So, another fine caravan ends. What great times we had.



BOSEMAN Caravan No. 40 - Leader Benjamin-June 11 - 27, 1989
Browns drove 2615 miles, out 26 days, spent \$948.00
Members: Benjamin, Browns, Burnes, Ginters, Gormans, Hadden,
Hoffman, Kellonds, Leipppers, Leiths, Messingers, Olivers,
Pettises, Schneiders.

Sunday, June 11, 1989 - Caravan No. 40 left the Alameda County Fairgrounds following the regular MBCU June Rally. The purpose of this Caravan was to have maximum fun along the way and to deliver us safely at the International Rally at Boseman. And the homeward trip would be Caravan 41.

So we set bravely forth and made our first overnight at the Old Orchard RV Park on Hwy 5 near Corning. We were happy with the lawn & the shade trees. Fun Happy Hour followed by dinner of left over food from the Rally eaten on the picnic tables grouped together. Even a touch of left over wine. Moved the next day to Sheepy Ridge. The old timers remembered the pleasant visit here on Caravan 24. The first-timers thought the place pretty dismal. But the owner did give us that interesting tour of their pheasant raising activity....and please remember those ducklings. And please remember that tour of the Horseradish plant.

June 15: On to Bend, Ore. During H/H in drove that same red & black German Tour Bus we have seen on other Caravans. They sure do get around. It is better than a side-show to watch them arrive, unfold, pitch-in, and settle down for the night. The next day's drive took us to Clyde Holliday Wayside Park near John Day. The usual outstanding Oregon State Park. Shirley arranged a very special tour of the KAM WAH CHUNG MUSEUM. Opened up just for us! We also were given a very special tour of the John Day Fossil Museum. Waffle breakfasts & joint dinners rounded out this stop.

June 18: Moved to that great favorite of ours.... Wallowa Lake. Allowed five days for this stop. Lots of bike riding, hiking, scouting, looking fishing.....AND great MEALS! These folks can sure cook. And how pleasant to sit in these beautiful surroundings, with so many good friends. We count our blessings. And how about the view from the top of Mt. Howard. The Gondola ride we all took is the steepest and longest such ride in North America. And the view, and hiking trails up at 8200 ft.

Our group cheered up the local merchants....lots of printed shirts, Western jewelry, fancy jackets, etc. being sold. Noticed truck loads of merchandise being brought in. Did have some rain, but the camp fires burned & we moved under the awnings. Nothing could dampen our spirits.

OVER -



Con't. from other side.

June 23: This is our last full day at Wallowa Lake. Tomorrow some will be going on to the Boise Rally. As scheduled, others will be leaving us. The Kellonds & Ginters are heading for the Portland area. The Burnes & Olivers are staying one more day before heading home. It was a sad, yet happy time as we said our goodbys, but enjoyed the fellowship of a Great Happy Hour with slight gifts & much praise. Then a fine hamburger feed and the usual "sit around" the campfire.

June 24: A very scenic drive today, and the steep drive down into the Snake, and then back out of the gorge. And remember cowboys driving that great herd of cattle down the road in the Sweetwater River area. Truly now out West. And remember the annual raft race down the Sweetwater, and the watchers on the banks. We found the Lewis & Clark RV Park in Kamiah quite suitable, and were soon settled in. This was the last night the Leippers would be with us.

The next day we made the 280 mile drive to Butte KOA. Our Treasurer, Nina, declared the Caravan Kitty now in Bankruptcy. In fact, overdrawn. With considerable humor the matter was settled, and the treasury dissolved. So Caravan No. 40 enjoyed the last & final Happy Hour.

June 26: Drove the 80 miles to the Rally Grounds. There had been much rainfall & the farmers had been delayed in preparing the fields for our parking.....so several hours of delay in the Bull Pen. Hundreds of restless peoplecomplaints on all sides. Both weather & tempers warmed up. But then drove slowly over the very rough land to our assigned parking space. And INTERNATIONAL!

This most certainly has been a very fine Caravan! Thanks.

PS: From Boise, the Browns headed home. Ed Harrison asked to drive with us & we left the Rally July 3rd, and drove over 300 miles to Declo, Idaho the first day.....to Winnemucca the next day, and to our new home the third day, parting with Ed in the Reno area when taking the Carson City turnoff.

Reported by Lloyd, from official Log & Ruth's 1989 Diary.

CARAVAN 41, BOZEMAN-NORTH

Leader: Jack Benjamin

Time: July - August after Bozeman International

Participants:

Bob and Alma Connell
Joe and Shirley Gorman
Amye and Orv Hoffman
Faye and Ev Messinger
Bob and Rosa Oliver
Nina Hadden
Bob and Dorethy Schneider
Jack Benjamin

Route: Left Bozeman July 3, to KOA at Choteau, Montana, on to Glacier National Park, Two Meadows Lake Campground among the peaks, bears! Took boat ride. Thence to campground just east of St. Mary. Drove Going-to-the-Sun Highway, took boat ride. Then, to Glacier Campground, lunch at lodge, took boat rides.

Then to Canada, Waterton Lakes Campground, beautiful! Took boat trip back to Montana, lunch at lodge, shopping! Toured area, saw mountain goats (sheep?), great place! Then to trailer park at Canmore. Visited Banff, lunch at lodge, shopped, enjoyed scenery and weather.

On to Lake Louise where Alma celebrated her birthday with dinner with us at the fancy lodge. She had telephone calls back to U.S. during excellent dinner. On to Jasper and Jasper National Park, boat ride on lake among peaks, glaciers. Took ride on huge glacier, lunch in lodge.

Then, west and south on Canada 5 to big campground in mountains. On to Montana to KOA at Missoula, then a night at Salmon, Idaho, on Salmon River. Up the river, we caravanned to Sawtooth National Recreation Area to Glacier Campground. Caravan ended there as most traveled south through Sun Valley to points west and south.

We had perfect weather throughout the caravan, excellent accommodations, good roads, one flat tire (Nina), and far too much food.

Reported August 1995 by Jack Benjamin

HAT CREEK RENDEVOUS NO. 42. September 6-13, 1989

7 Nights. Leaders: Bob and Dorothy Schneider. Ten MBCU Trailers, plus Leippers' son Bryan and daughter Diane.

Taking two days for most of us, we arrived on Tuesday after Labor Day. Relaxing and intermittent fishing were the main events of the days with evening camp fires as a "must." The deer and chipmunks were plentiful. Guests of the Leippers, Hal and Ginny Deizel of Reno spent several days visiting. Bill and Irene Burnes' son Terry visited briefly. In the dark late Saturday night Schneiders' daughter Jan and her husband Dennis found their way into camp and stayed overnight.

We enjoyed our famous hamburgers with Schneiders' tomatoes, waffles cooked in the cast iron waffle irons where Jack supervised the operation. Dorothy brought homemade many-fruited coffee cakes for breakfast one morning and the melons provided lasted on for lunches. As usual food was plentiful.

A visit to beautiful Burney Falls, brown bag lunch, and shopping on the return was fabulous. Some went sightseeing to Mount Lassen during the week. Our return to Uncle Runt's in 1988 after several years absence proved so successful that we went again for our last night's farewell dinner, taking up most of the dining room and returned to camp well fed in search of hot buttered rum. The group presented Hosts Bob and Dorothy with a lovely large candle which had natural pinecones and leaves embedded in the body of the candle.

Everyone said they had a good time as we reluctantly hitched up and headed towards home on the last morning.

Reported by Dorothy & Bob Schneider 1995

NATIVE AMERICAN ODYSSEY Caravan No. 43 - Leaders Gormans
May 13 - June 21. 41 days W/Rally 3638 miles \$1890.00
Members: Benjamin, Browns, Beasleys, Gerolds, Ginters,
Gormans, Hadden, Hays, Hoffmans, Leippers, Leiths, Olivers,
Pettis'

May 13, 1990. Following a waffle & sausage breakfast ending the May Pinnacles Rally we headed South by the back roads to establish camp in the Bakersfield Fairgrounds. Good spot. Then on to our Barstow stop. 8:00AM departure next morning for the Marina Park in Needles.

Spent an extra day in Needles. Car Pooled and drove up to the old mining town of Oatman. Interesting to see the many Burros.....wild, yet so tame they blocked store doorways and slept in the street. Atmosphere, you know. Dozens of Souvenir Shops. Back in camp Jack & Lloyd set up the usual Caravan Barber Shop and several of our members braved the outcome.

May 17: On to Flagstaff for a one night stop. Usual Caravan Dinner by the Ladies. Nice! But now high in the mountains.....lots of wind, and cold nights. Then on to Holbrook the next morning. Happy Hour in the Park Club-house & some enjoyed dinner out. Ah, modern inventions...cable TV hookups were available. With an extra day at this stop, we car-pooled and visited the Petrified Forest. Still lots of wind & Bob O. lost his hat at one overlook. Earl had brought his motorcycle so escorted us on trip.

May 20: On to Gallup, NM. Great to have the Gerolds from S. Carolina here to welcome us in. (Good friends from former Caravans & Rallies.) In afternoon drove up to visit Window Rock. Some even tried the KOA steak barbecue cooked & sold right here in camp. Altho' no broken teeth, it was tough! Next morning we all climbed into cars to visit Suni Pueblo, El Morro, & surrounding Indian Country. There were many Indian shops filled with "great stuff" but most of us resisted buying. (There was pottery up to \$2,100.) Following a comfortable Happy Hour, some went out to eat, others wandered over to watch the Indian Dancers provided by this Park.

May 22: Departed for the St. Bonaventure RV Park in Thoreau, NM. Claimed this is only RV Park in the world run by volunteer help.....all profit going to the Indian School. From here we car-pooled to make the 150 mile visit of Chaco Canyon, lots on dirt roads. From the Visitor Center Movie we learned this was the center of Anasazi life in past times. The next day we all visited Acoma, said to be the oldest continually occupied village in the USA.

Camp then moved to Santa Fee, NM. Did shopping & sight-seeing. The next day we all took the Bus Tour. Three hours with lots of interesting stops. Were shown "the oldest house in USA". Following our in camp group dinner, Jerry broke out his new guitar and sang a few of our favorite songs. Strangers in camp gathered around to listen. Nice. Next day we gathered in five cars for the tour of Bandelier Nat'l. Mon't. Liked the Trading Post. Sampled the trails. Ate our lunches in a churchyard. PEACEFUL.

OVER -

Con't. from other side.

May 29: Caravan moved to Taos, NM. What a beautiful drive. but still very heavy winds. Held H/H that evening huddled in one of those tiny A-Frame sheds furnished each tenting camp space. Cozy!

Next day's tour took us to Taos Pueblo, in continuous use 900 yrs.

FABULOUS visit.

Then to Millicent

Rodgers Museum, Kit

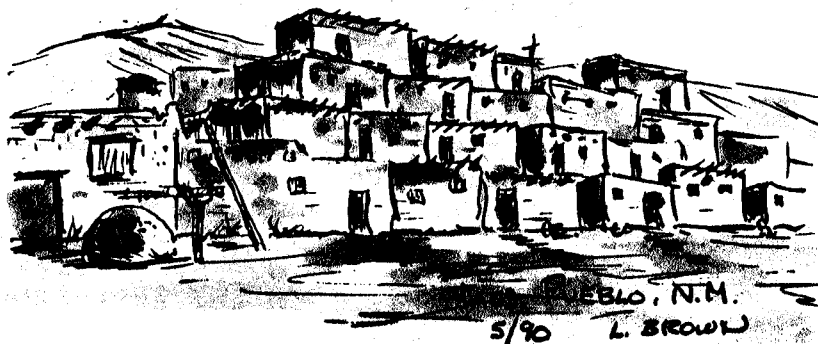
Carson House, & back

to camp for Pie Iron

lunch. Then off to

the St. Francis of

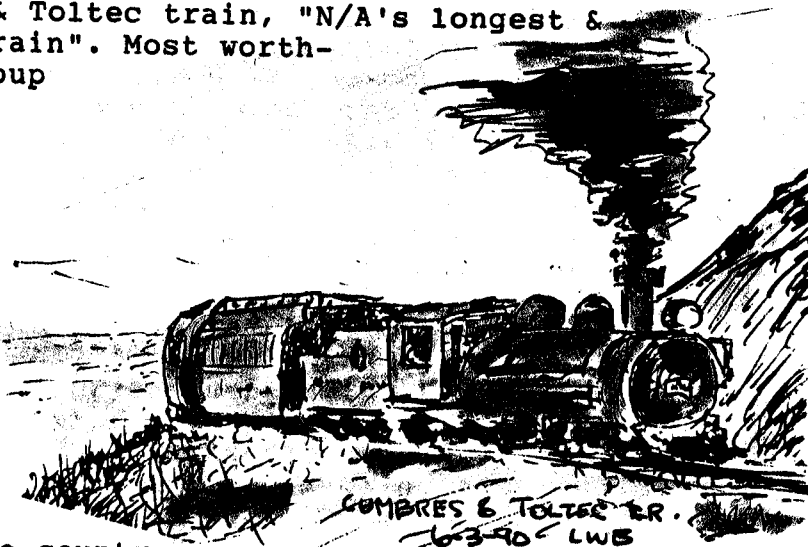
Assisi Mission.



The next day we made the High Road to Taos Loop drive. Visited La Trampas & then to Truchas. The small villages of Chimato and Ortega were visited....many gift shops. Brown Bag lunched in Santuario.

June 2: Our next stop was Chama, NM. The next day we boarded the Combres & Toltec train, "N/A's longest & highest narrow gage steam train". Most worthwhile all day trip. Our group continued to buy "stuff". Merchants HAPPY. Then moved camp to Durango.

The Aztec Ruins were truly awesome. Impressed with the restored GREAT KIVA. Mesa Verde was our next stop with many sight-seeing trips. With a stop to check out FOUR-CORNERS, we set up camp in Goulding, overlooking MONUMENT VALLEY. Toured the VALLEY next day, and shopped the Trading Post. All Navajo country.



June 12: Moved on to Canyon de Chelle. Enjoyed tours both above the rim looking down, and down into the Canyon. In fact, spent three enjoyable days here. The Hays 4WD vehicle a big help. Then moved on to Grand Canyon Villages. Spent four great days sight-seeing, buying tourist items, eating, & sitting. WONDERFUL!

June 17: Headed off for our last Caravan stop, Sedona. Altho' we've been here often this beautiful spot is always impressive. After much touring & three happy evening gatherings in this lovely, shady Park, we waved goodbye & left for home on June 19, 1990

It is hard to judge but I think this was the finest Caravan ever organized & run my MBCU...and all credit to Joe & Shirley Gormans, our trusty Leaders.

Reported in 1995 by Lloyd from 1990 Caravan Log.

HAT CREEK RENDEZVOUS, Caravan No. 44 - Leaders Leipppers & Hoffmans. Sept 5 - 12, 1990.
Members: Benjamin, Burnes, Schneiders, Browns, Leipppers, Hoffmans, Hadden, Monahans, Donalds, Olivers, Fraziers.

Sept 4, 1990 We Browns drove to O-Nite RV Park in Red Bluff. Next morning drove into Hat Creek Campground. The Leipppers & Jack were already there, and the rest of our group drove in during the day. Jack had the campfire nicely going by Happy Hour. Having just returned from Mexico, we Browns served Pina Coladas...a drink we had just learned about. Group dinner of Beans, Corn Bread, & Green Salad. Then enjoyed the evening around the campfire.

Only one of the many nice things about Hat Creek is the beauty of our campsite. It is our own reserved area without neighbors. A camp "center" is formed by the campfire pit & grouped picnic tables. All of our rigs can be nicely parked around this circle. The Hat Creek is close by. The many pine trees are there to provide shade and to add beauty to the place. The fields are level for hiking or bike riding.

The next day spent fishing, hiking, exploring,.....a fine hamburger lunch followed by pie iron dessert. Then off to make the Burney Falls run the next day. Always fun with our brown bag lunches, and visit to the town of Burney.

One new thing tried this year was a "Kitty" breakfast at a close by restaurant. Clever idea....something new & turned out well.

The days passed quickly with trips to Lassen Park, organized hikes, and lots of fishing, Tile games, card games, campfires, and never ending group meals. Toast & Coffee in the mornings, Pie Iron lunches, fattening dinners. I'm told there was even a drink or two at Happy Hour. But we behaved and everyone had a GREAT time. Oh yes, almost overlooked! All this at the peak of success of our singing & whistling group, and this added fun to our campfire gatherings.

So we end another MBCU event....enjoyed by all.

Reported in 1995 by Lloyd, from scant notes in Ruth's Diary

TACATI SAFARI Caravan No. 45 - Leader Benjamin
Feb 24 - March 13, 1991 - Ten Rigs - 18 days - 1731 miles
Members: Benjamin, Browns, Gormans, Ginters, Connells,
Schneiders, Olivers, Leippers, Leiths, Paxtons.

Feb 24, '91: Following the MBCU Rally breakfast at the Watsonville Fairgrounds the Caravan headed South for the KOA in Lost Hills. Good weather & no problems.

Picked up the Paxtons at Kramer's Corner the next morning as we headed for Victorville KOA Park. As days are short & weather cold Happy Hour was moved up to 4:30. Will use any excuse to "get at that stuff"!

Feb 26: Headed for Anza Borrego. Made the usual stop at Valerie Jean's Date stand for a date milk shake. Hang the calories.....they're so GOOD! Nice warm weather and we all are happy with the good news from the Desert War. The next day we spent sight-seeing. With rain, we moved H/H and our Pot Luck Dinner into the available building.

Feb 28: Rained hard. Thunder & lightning! Received about 50% of annual rainfall in 24 hours. Car Pooled for tours....then out for dinner. A nice restaurant & a happy time for all. Still raining the next day.

Mar 2: Drove up to Julian to visit Dale's Sister. Sure enjoyed meeting Mary and liked her adobe home very much. Very unique and in a beautiful setting. Also liked her apple pie. Back in camp the Ginters were pleased by a visit from their Sons. The next day we took picnic lunches and drove out to various trail heads and did some serious hiking. Well, some did & others just lolled about. But all beautiful country and we enjoyed our lunch under the trees at the spring. As this is our last night here, we celebrated by going out to the Ram's Head Restaurant at the Country Club. Nice.

Mar 4: Left at 7:30AM for our move to the Porterro San Diego County Park. A beautiful place with lots of Wild Life (Saw a Bob Cat) & Oak Trees. What a peaceful spot for our evening get-to-gether. The next day we crossed the Border into Tacate. This is not really a Tourist stop so there was little to see or things to buy. Did lug back a red clay "Happy Face" that still hangs on our home wall.

We thought of the Dahmes when Ruth mentioned their 50th Anniversary. Nice to send them something. Then Dale suggested we make up a Video Tape with all of us saying something nice. So, we all gave it our best shot at Happy Hour, with Bob Connell running the camera, and turned out a true MASTERPIECE! Well, perhaps not, but darn good anyway. Still enjoy viewing it now and then. Nice to check if we are showing any signs of age since then.

OVER -

Con't. from other side.

Mar 7: Moved to Chula Vista in the San Diego Area. A nice drive through interesting country and in good weather. The next day we made the tour of Cabrillo Nat'l Mon. The Ginters knew the country well and made excellent guides. Always enjoy the Lighthouse (which I painted some years ago. That is, made a painting of....did not paint it.) Liked the Visitor Center. A most unusual Fish Restaurant for lunch.....ah, those Crab Sandwiches!

Back in camp we were intrigued with the Kite Flying at the edge of our camp. Could do anything with them! We also enjoyed the simple hiking trails & the Ocean View. And another fine restaurant for evening dinner.

At Driver's meeting it was decided against returning North via Victorville because of the reported heavy winds. So the next day found us on the San Diego Freeway heading up through L/A. Traffic Fierce! Evening at the Flying Flags in Bulleton with dinner at Andersen's Split Pea Soup. Moved North the next day to the Kettleman City RV Park.....lunch in that good Restaurant next door....then a quiet afternoon. Ended the day with Happy Hour & group dinner in the Park Clubhouse.

Mar 13: Moved up to the Donald's Sutter Creek home to attend the Monthly Rally.

So, another fine MBCU Caravan was put to bed.

Reported in 1995 by Lloyd, from notes in Ruth's 1991 Diary.

THE SILVER STATE Caravan No. 46 - Leaders Leiths/Gormans.
May 19 - June 12, 1991. - 2236 miles, \$787.00 (Browns)
Members: Beasleys, Benjamin, Browns, Gormans, Hadden,
Leippers, Leiths, Olivrs, Paxtons,
Caravan Dogs: Abby, Scupper, Sparky.
NOTE: Bird Watching added to Caravan, Dave Paxton Recorder.
63 birds listed. His claim for domestic chickens rejected.

May 19, 1991: Departed Pinnacles Rally, using back roads to reach the Lost Hills KOA. Lupines & other wild flowers plentiful. Beautiful drive. The next day we moved on to Barstow for a pleasant night's stop.

May 21: Broke camp at 9:30AM, traveled as a group, stopped for lunch at the Nevada State Line Visitor Center, and then on to the Circus Circus RV Park in Las Vegas. As we gathered for H/H at 5:00PM word was received that Marian had a serious health problem, an ambulance had been called, and she was taken to the hospital. Shirley was helpful. Jay called the daughters and they arrived later.

Kept in close touch with Jay but no further exact word. As Marian in good hands, and nothing we could do, we continued with scheduled plans and spent the day in Red Rock Canyon. Took lunches. Returned to camp, had our subdued Happy Hour and went to dinner in the Lounge.

May 23: Important visits today were to Hoover Dam (hot & crowded, but with wonderful Visitor Center program) and to world famous ETHEL M Chocolate Factory (free samples & Nevada's largest Cactus Garden display). Jay turned over his schedules & Kitty Fee funds to Joe who agreed to take over leadership of the Caravan.

May 24: Left Las Vegas for the "Sun & Fun" Park in Overton. Visited the Lost City Museum with GREAT display of Indian Artifacts. Weather HOT! Next morning car pooled & toured the "Valley of Fire" State Park. And then down to the Overton Beach. Large lake....boats everywhere. Well over one hundred degrees in the shade, of which there was none. The next day the Birders of our group headed for the Wild Life Sanctuary. Added a bird or two. At Happy Hour Shirley explained that our next stop was at a State Park without reservations, so an early start was advisable.

May 27: Moved to the State Park....very, very nice, with shade trees. In afternoon we made the tour of the old mining town of Pioche. Old deserted shacks everywhere. The museum and old Court House, and jail, were most interesting. Stopped at Miller Overlook on return.



OVER -

Con't. from other side.

May 28: All enjoyed this lovely Park. Most walked over to the TOWER, a most interesting old watch tower from the Indian days. A pleasant picnic area close by. We then leaped into the cars and rode off for the visit to Spring Valley & Echo Canyon. Made a quick stop at little town of Panaca on our return trip. Spaghetti Meat Ball dinner that night. GREAT comradeship. After dinner a few strolled over for another look at the Tower. Balmy evening.

May 29: Departure for the very new Great Basin Nat'l Park was at 6:30AM. Located at the Utah Border and at 7500' elevation. And parking almost impossible for our large rigs. And uneven.....used all our leveling boards plus rocks. The Browns & Benjamin were run out of the Picnic Area by a beautiful but firm (both mind & body) female Ranger with a gun strapped on her belt. WOW! And it was snowing all this time. And our group was divided between two camps a mile apart. And still snowing. Only cheerful thing about this visit was being able to see the lone Bristle Cone Pine fenced in at the Visitors Center. (The road up to the wild grove was closed by snow.)

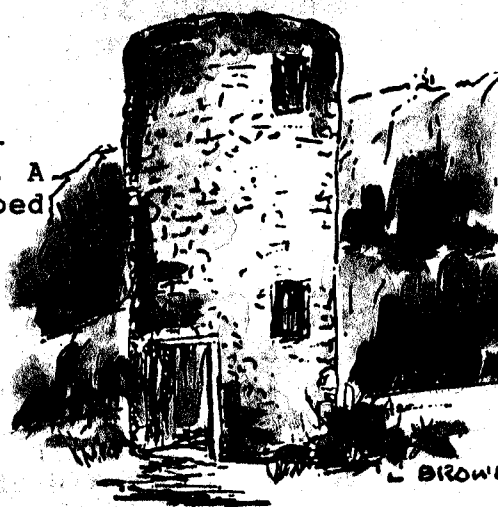
With 4" of snow the next morning it was decided to cut our stay short and move on out of this Park. Within twenty minutes we were on the road to Ely KOA and happy to have hook-ups. With the heavy rain, Happy Hour was canceled. Under his umbrella, Joe went trailer to trailer with tomorrow's instructions for our move to Elko.

June 4: The Browns had to suddenly return home and left at 6:00AM. Barbara was the only one up (walking Scupper) so we gave her the word. Dave took over the reporting job and says that Ruth's Lamoille Canyon tour was beautiful. In an Alpine setting. Inspected Beaver Dam. Took pictures. Then heavy storm. Next day visited Elko's fine Museumthen to a talented Potter's Shop. June 6th moved to Lovelock for two nights and then on to Reno. Spent a very busy four days here. Visited many interesting places including Virginia City.

June 12: Departed Reno and drove over Carson Pass and down into Sutter Creek and the Donald home. Enjoyed a nice overnight visit with Howard & Dottie. The next morning the Caravan moved down to the Waterford Sportsman Club Park for the MBCU June Rally.

And so another MBCU Caravan comes to an end.

Reported in 1995 by Lloyd, from Ruth's diary & official Log



DEATH VALLEY Caravan No. 47 -Leader Benjamin
Feb 16 - Mar 4, 1992 - 18 nights, 2236 miles, \$796 (Browns)
Members: Benjamin, Browns, Gormans, Leipppers, Coxes,
Olivers, Haddin - Visitors Helen Weber, Grossmans

Feb 16, 1992. Left the Los Banos MBCU February Rally, traveled south to the Lost Hills KOA Park. Grounds muddy from recent heavy rains. Settled down quickly for night.

Feb 17: Easy drive without usual winds to KOA Victorville. As cold, used their upstairs club room for our Happy Hour, drivers Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner.

Feb 18: Upon arrival at campground in Death Valley we found the Leipppers already parked, and the Coxes drove in after lunch. Nice reunion of old friends. Next day took picnic lunches and toured the Valley. Bad Water, Artist Point, Natural Bridge, Golden Canyon, etc. Next day had lunch at Furnace Creek Ranch, attended Visitor Center Program, played Tile, & talked a lot.

Feb 22: Headed for Needles. Turned South at Furnace Creek Inn, drove past Bad Water, & rejoined Hwy 127 close to Shoshone. Thoroughly enjoyed this back road with much scenery and little traffic. A quiet night at Needles and moved to Crazy Horse RV Park at Lake Havasu. As this is peak season it was very crowded. Again visited the Bridge, the shops, and then lunch at a GREAT restaurant overlooking the Bridge & the River.

Feb 28: Moved to Yuma. Ran out to the asparagus farm and picked grapefruit at the orchard. Good stuff! Had Happy Hour at Helen Webers home.....nice to see her, Barbara, and Jessica again. And what a great party they had for us. With our little Jessica all grown up & acting as our waitress. We sure appreciate Helen's fine hospitality. And it was nice to have Sid Grossman join the party. (unfortunately, Esther was under the weather). And to round out the evening we sent out for Col. Sanders Chicken & ate out on Helen's Patio. Delightful!

The next evening we all went to Sid's Club for a very nice Seafood Dinner. What a pleasant way to wind up our stay in Yuma.

Feb 28: The Coxes left for home. Sure nice seeing them again. Had pot luck in camp for our last night in Yuma. Left for Anza Borrago the next morning. All very pleased with the RV Park and enjoyed meals in their restaurant.

Mar 1: Car Pooled & made tour of the old Butterfield Stage Coach Stop. This stage ran between San Antonio & San Diego in the late Eighteen Hundreds. After two nights we left for the Lost Hills KOA we have used so often. Enjoyed out last night Social Gathering.

Mar 4: We broke camp & all headed for home. We Browns departed at 6:30AM and reached home in the noon hour.

And thus, caravan 47 is added to our list.

Reported June, 1995 by Lloyd from notes in Ruth's Diary.

TURNER LAMB FESTIVAL Caravan No. 48 - Leaders Pettises/Brown
May/June 1992 Members: Benjamin, Conner, McKnights,
Leippers, Leiths, Schneiders, Pettises

This Caravan was planned, organized, and reservations made by the Browns. At the last moment, Ruth took very ill and Gerry & Earl Pettis stepped forward to take over leadership. Sincere thanks goes to them.

Rendezvous point was the Happy Times RV Park in Dunnigan. The group then moved on to Siskiyou Lake for a two night stop. The extra day was to allow a visit to the Fish Hatchery and to the Castle Crags State Park. This included taking a picnic lunch. At the talk given by the Ranger at the hatchery, cardboard fish cutouts were used. Dot Schneider was a great sport as she was gradually turned into a beautiful Brook Trout.

The next move was to Crater lake. Lots of good bicycle trails and beautiful scenery.....and strong mosquitos. Next scheduled stop was near Eugene, Ore. The planned visit to the plywood factory had to be canceled as closed down. An interesting visit to a local box factory was a good replacement. Also visited was an interesting Micro Brewery, so tiny that the group "swamped" the place.

Then moved into the Turner Lamb Festival Rallysite. Beautiful parking in the shaded grounds of a local Church. The auditorium building was ideal for the various meetings and meals. The little town of Turner was delightful. A good lamb barbecue, sheep dog trials, lamb shearing, etc., and a great "little town" parade on Saturday.

Of special interest to some were the great craft displays. And greatly appreciated were the special tours to the Detroit Dam and the Bird Farm. And the tour through the "First Water Powered Woolen Mill" in the West was fun. And all enjoyed the tour of the Rose Garden and the famous Bush House, built in the 1800's.

And who could forget the final evening program which featured the World War One Veteran, in the original uniform, playing the various military Bugle Calls. Brought the tears to your eyes.

Thus ended Caravan No. 48, another good one.

Reported by Lloyd in 1995, from notes from Gerry Pettis & Molly McKnight.

SUNSHINE Caravan No. 49 - Leaders Leiths.

Feb 23 - Mar 24, 1993 - 2786 Miles - \$1013 (\$404 in gas)

Members: Benjamin, Browns, Connells, Coxes, Gormans, Hadden
Leippers, Leiths, Olivers, Pettises, Schneiders

This Caravan left the MBCU Los Banos Rally on Sunday, Feb 23, 1993, and gathered at our frequently used & well liked Lost Hills KOA. Leiths were delayed by car problems, Browns barely limped in also with car troubles. Lucille Conners had to drop out entirely.....(buying new home), and Nina drove slowly to properly break in her new Suburban.

Feb 24: Snow reported on the Tehachapi and our trusty group did indeed run into heavy winds at Mojave. But all arrived safely at KOA Victorville. That is, except for the Leiths still awaiting parts, and we Browns who had to leave their Suburban overnight for repairs back in Bakersfield.

Feb 25: The Joshua Tree stop reminded one of our fateful Great Basin trip.....All parked, then ordered by the Ranger to move. At Happy Hour Earl suggested two hikes for tomorrow and several joined he & Gerry. By Happy Hour the Leiths drove in. By the way, we were parked in the Jumbo Rocks Campground.....very beautiful but with no hook-ups. And it was very cold nights. Electric blankets missed! In fact, it snowed one night.

Feb 28: Moved on to the Imperial Sea View RV Park overlooking the Salton Sea. With full hook-ups at \$12.50! On this day's drive Brown delivered his infamous "Long Face Horse Story" on CB. The next day the Caravan moved to the Country Roads RV Park in Yuma. And, of course the chance to see Helen Webber again. Very NICE. Then followed lots of visiting back & forth.

Mar 2: Earl & Gerry organized a run into Mexico, and we all enjoyed shopping & looking. Then yet another visit to Helen's home with Margaritas & Hamburger barbecue to round out a busy fun day. The next day was filled with visits to the laundry....grapefruit picking....phone calls, and the Brown/Benjamin Barber Shop was open for business. Even cut one Ladies hair.

Mar 5: Farewell Yuma...on to Organ Pipes. Group Area No. 2 was reserved for us. We nestled up close (the trailers, not folks) and established a real fun camp. It is truly a beautiful place. Chris & Glen joined us at this stop. How very nice to see them again. Been a year. This stop allowed some fun Bird Watching with species never seen at home. And there was a good chance to test out our cooks. Waffle Breakfasts, Baked Bean dinners, Grilled Hot Dogs, etc. And various hikes with Earl & Jay making the longest of all, into the old Gold Mines. Looked some tuckered out when got back. We even visited the Border Town of Lukeville. Organ Pipes...a truly GREAT area.

OVER -

Con't. from other side.

Mar 7: Moved our encampment to Rincon Country West RV Park in Tucson. Much of drive through Indian Reservations. Their little homes were scattered through the rolling hills and the small Trading Posts were of special interest to us. Parked near us was a caravan of deaf & dumb folks. Sure could "talk" fast with their sign language. Made quiet neighbors. Spent next day with visits to Old Tucson Town, and the "Old Pueblo Trader" who mails out the catalog we are so familiar with.

Mar 9: Off for Tombstone today. All enjoyed the Wells Fargo RV Park here, and the friendly young couple who managed the place. Our "shoppers" liked the location...so close to those nice stores. Earl & Gerry took a longer route on today's drive and were able to make a tour of the Titan 11 Launch Site. This they described at Happy Hour. Most interesting. We all had dinner at Bella Union, an old 1881 Bar and Restaurant within walking distance. Next day filled with shopping, a visit to Boothill, watching the gunfight that was right on schedule, and waving to the Stagecoach that drove by. A pleasant surprise when the Meyers dropped in at HH. On their way home from Mardi Gras. Dinner at the Elks Lodge close by.



The Olivers & Coks left from this stop. Sorry to see them go. The rest moved on to Casa Grande and a nice overnight stop. Then on to Sedona, a beautiful area of Red Cliffs which we always enjoy. Still more mad buying by our ladies. Sure the money will soon run out. The Connells decorated their trailer with Shamrock cut-outs and then organized a corn beef & Cabbage dinner for St Patricks Day.

Mar 18: 225 miles to Needles and the Marina Park. The Browns, Nina, & Connells left the group the next morning. The rest moved to Barstow, then to Lake Isabella and on to Madera, before making their entry into the Howaard Donald March Rally at their Sutter Creek home. Here we re-joined the group, in fact helped host the Rally.

This was a most worthwhile Caravan, loaded with interest.

Reported by Lloyd, from Ruth's Diary & Caravan Log.

MONTEREY BAY CALIFORNIA UNIT, WBCCI

CARAVAN NO. 50

"PRAIRIE SAFARI CARAVAN"

Caravan Leaders: Joe and Shirley Gorman

Inclusive Dates: June 6 to July 23, 1993

The objectives of the caravan were to travel to Bismarck, North Dakota to attend the WBCCI International Rally, and to visit points of interest along the way both heading east and west.

The caravan formed and departed from a Unit Rally at Rio Vista, CA on June 6th. Six Unit members in addition to the Gormans began the first leg to Reno, Nevada. These included Unit President Ev Messinger and Faye, Jack Benjamin, Lucille Conner, Nina Hadden, Jay and Marian Leith, and Bob and Dorothy Schneider. Later Earl and Gerry Pettis linked up with the caravan at Wolf Point, Montana. Upon reaching Reno, after a snowy passage over Donner Pass, the caravan was joined by two Redwood Empire Unit members: Unit President Rick Sharp and Margaret and Don and Jean Dupertuis.

On June 10th the caravan arrived at Farmington, Utah for a short stay at Lagoon Pioneer Village RV Park; the park was located adjacent to a theme park with a similar name. This stop permitted visits to Salt Lake City and the Mormon Temple.

The next stops were at Jackson, Wyoming and at Yellowstone Park. Various points of interest were visited in Jackson Hole and the Grand Tetons; at Yellowstone the caravanners visited the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, with its spectacular falls, and Mammoth Hot Springs in the north with its calcareous deposits.

Leaving Yellowstone Park, a brief stopover was made at the Buffalo Bill Museum at Cody, Wyoming. On June 19th the caravan made its way over the Powder River Pass at an elevation over 9,600 feet, and arrived at Hill City, South Dakota. Operating from a pleasant, wooded RV park at Hill City, the group visited the Mount Rushmore monument, the Black Hills, the badlands, and the Crazy Horse Memorial where an entire mountain is being sculpted to honor the famous Sioux warrior.

On June 22nd the caravan arrived at Pierre, South Dakota, the State Capitol. After a pleasant stop at Farm Island State Park and visits to the Capitol and the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, the caravan moved north on the last leg to Bismarck; along the route Lawrence Welk's old homestead was passed. Extremely strong cross-winds howled across the flat prairie region on the way north.

Con't. from other side.

The International Rally site at Bismarck Airport was reached on Friday, June 25th. On Monday the two Unit Presidents participated in the opening ceremonies. MBCU and CREU excelled in the awards department: the Messingers carried off two second place awards - one for the Unit Bulletin Board and one for Faye's Cypress EXpress Newsletter. California Redwood Empire was awarded third place in the bulletin board competition. At 6:00 PM on July 1st a menacing black cloud passed over the assembled 2,300 Airstreams and delivered a devastating hail storm carried on the wings of high winds. The hail was golf ball sized, and did about \$14-million dollars worth of damage to the Airstream unit in about one minute. Five of our units were parked in a low-lying area, and the rains soon created a small lake around our trailers. On July 3rd before the official ending of the Rally we had enough; a tractor was enlisted to tow the five trailers to dry ground, and the caravan headed westward to Medora, SD. While at Medora a visit was made to the scenic wonders of the Theodore Roosevelt State Park.

The caravan then headed in a westerly direction along the Canadian border enroute to Glacier National Park, making stops at Wolf Point, MT and Havre, MT. Further rain and lightning storms were encountered. On July 9th the group reached West Glacier, Montana. A three day stopover there permitted visits to the spectacular park scenery. Trips were made over the Going to the Sun Highway and to Macdonald Lake.

Heading further westward, the planned itinerary included stops at Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, Moses Lake, Washington, and the Airstream Land Yacht Harbor at Lacey, WA. A stopover at Gold Beach, Oregon provided an opportunity for the Messingers and Gormans to take a Rogue River mailboat trip upstream and return.

On July 23rd the caravan proceeded down the Oregon and California coasts to the caravan end point at Eureka, CA. Sunshine greeted the travellers at last!

Epilogue: For nearly two months and some 4,000 miles the caravan travelled across parched deserts, awesome mountain passes, and rolling prairies of the high plains. It visited many interesting places and areas of the west which all will long remember. It wasn't always easy, as from time to time rain, lightning, and hail had to be endured which made the journey difficult. Through it all the caravanners of PRAIRIE SAFARI 1993 always accepted travel conditions with grace and good humor.

Reported July, 1995 by Joseph W. Gorman



Monterey Bay California Unit 127

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