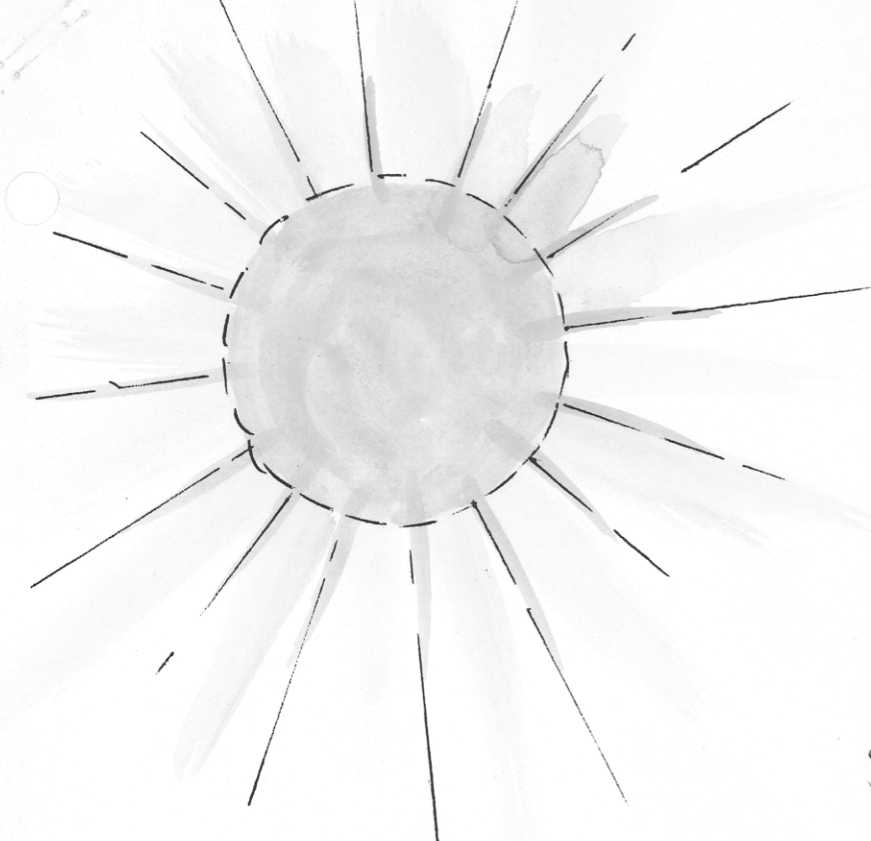
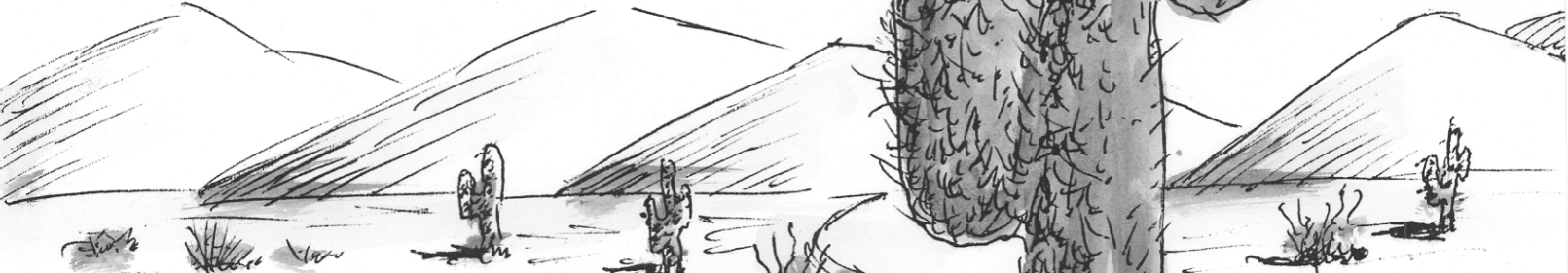


LEIPPER



LEADERS
MARIAN & JAY LEITH



SUNSHINE CARAVAN

MONTEREY BAY UNIT
Caravan No. 49
February 23 to March 24, 1993

WBCCI
Monterey Bay Cal Unit

S U N S H I N E C A R A V A N No 49
February 23 to March 24, 1993

oOo

L E A D E R S

Marian and Jay Leith

oOo

S T A F F

Meals - - - - Shirley Gorman
Happy Hours - Ruth Brown
Parking - - - Jack Benjamin
Historian - - Lloyd Brown

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P L A C E S V I S I T E D

Lost Hills.....Victorville.....Joshua Tree Nat'l Mont...
Yuma.....Tucson.....Tombstone.....Sedona.....Needles.....
Barstow.....Lake Isabella.....Madera...Donald's Estate.

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C A R A V A N N E R S

Jack Benjamin	Virginia & Dale Leipper
Ruth & Lloyd Brown	Marian & Jay Leith
Alma & Bob Connell	Rosa & Bob Oliver
Christine & Glen Cox	Gerry & Earl Pettis
Shirley & Joe Gorman	Dorothy & Schneider
Nina Hadden	

We seem to be having "a less than glorious" start to Caravan #49. Our Leader is still home awaiting parts for his tow vehicle. Special parts for the drive shaft (or perhaps crankshaft) that are being brought over from Nevada.

Lucille Conners has been buying a new home and cannot join us for a few days. So, thats two rigs missing. And, we Browns just barely made it into camp. Serious engine problems developed on today's drive.

After a quick hello all around, and unhooking the trailer, we drove the 45 miles to the closest Chevrolet Garage, in Bakersfield, They worked all afternoon but another full day would be needed for the repairs. Rented a car & returned to camp.

So, this first Happy Hour found Six & a Half rigs present: Benjamin, Brown, Gorman, Hadden, Oliver, Pettis, and Schneider. It was cold - - - the ground very wet & muddy, and there was more standing than sitting. In less than an hour things broke up. Many made the short walk to Carl's, Jr. for dinner.

The trip down was Nina's first run with her new Suburban. She is being very careful to follow instructions while breaking in this beauty! Did not exceed 50MPH the whole way. Says some drivers were shaking their fists at her.

Might also mention that Gerry & Earl had arrived two days early (to escape a snow storm predicted for home). They also had car problems.....and had spent two days in Bakersfield. (But minor problem....with speed control).

WEDNESDAY, Feb 24

Cold overcast morning. Snow reported on the Tehachapi! Our group drove off at about 8:30AM for the move to Victorville. We watched sadly as they drove off. But by 4:30 that afternoon we were back to the trailer with a renewed Suburban and \$842.00 less to our name.

We learned later that the Group experienced very heavy winds on the drive across the Mojave Desert. Shirley reported that Sparky needcd to take care of Nature at their rest stop. The wind was blowing so hard he was blown over each time he lifted his hind leg. Took four legs to stand in this wind! After three tries, he said "the Hell with it!" and raced back into the trailer.

All were impressed with the facilities at the Victorville KOA. A very pleasant building for Happy Hour and Shirley supervised the Hamburger Feed that followed. Ruth had forwarded her Famous Rum Cake with Gerry Pettis and all claimed it was GOOD!

THURSDAY, Feb 25 - Brown's drove the 286 miles to catch up with the group at Joshua Tree. Arrived to find that after all were nicely parked.....the Ranger told them to move. Reminds one of that fateful stop at Great Basin Nat'l Park in eastern Nevada on Caravan #46.

We soon found suitable (and legal) parking spaces at the lower end of camp. This is the Jumbo Rocks Campground, elevation 4,000', 130 campsites (90% too small), no water even at camp center, and no other facilities except for chemical toilets. BUT very BEAUTIFUL nestled amongst the rocks.

At Happy Hour along side the Gorman trailer, Earl outlined two sight-seeing hikes he & Gerry were taking tomorrow. Of course most of our gang said they would join them. Departure on 1st - 9:30, 2nd at 2:00PM,

We were expecting the Leiths to drive in at any moment but they were a "No Show". The star of the evening was a bright-eyed Cottontail Rabbit. Very tame and Bob Schneider soon coaxed him/her into eating a few peanuts.



FRIDAY, Feb 26 - Joshua Tree. Sure enough, at 9:30, our brave little band strode off on the "Skull Rock" Nature Trail hike. Turned out to be a 1.7 mile hike through very rocky terrain. It is fortunate that all Airstreamers are lean & wiry as overweights could not have squeezed through some of the places.

Back in time for lunch but the second hike was postponed until tomorrow. A few sprinkles this afternoon and quite cold at Happy Hour. Earl announced 9:30 tomorrow for the second hike. Still no sign of Jay & Marian.

SATURDAY, Feb 27 - Joshua Tree. It has been very cold nights. Sure miss those electric blankets! But what a quiet beautiful spot we are in. The shape & arrangement of the rocks are unbelievable

The group left on schedule for the Parker Dam hike. The lake created almost a hundred years ago is in a beautiful surrounding and on the return of the loop trail one passes the American Indian Petroglyphs.

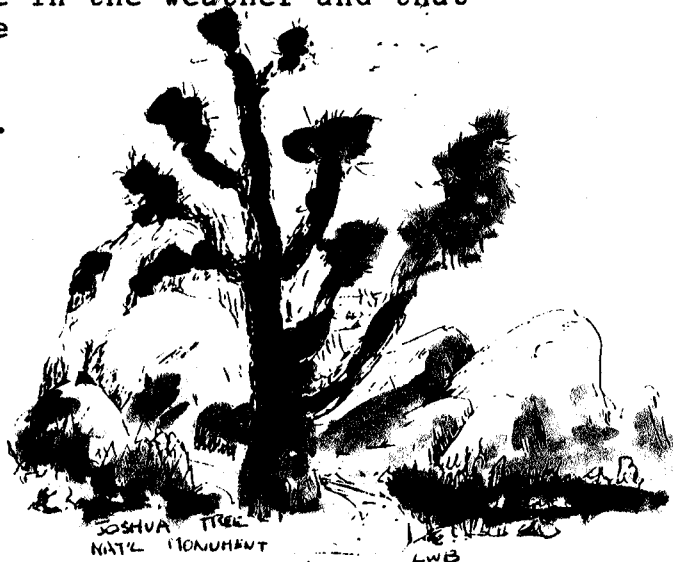
Unfortunately, the Schneiders could not make this hike as they had to take their Motorhome into town for repairs. In fact they were not back in time for our Pie Iron lunch, skillfully arranged by Nina. Good job, Nina!

At 4:00PM sharp, in drove the Leiths. Guess they did not want to miss another Happy Hour. It was truly a HAPPY Happy Hour to have Marian & Jay with us again.

The Ranger (Campground Host.....who seemed to be living in his Van. Says he spends six months at this post.) had assured us that there was a change in the weather and that it would be much warmer. BUT, the Happy Hour was cut to about thirty minutes and we all raced off to the warmth of our trailers.

SUNDAY, Feb 28 Snowed last night. Very COLD in hooking up this morning.....took forty minutes & twenty miles driving to get thawed out! But what a nice easy drive thru' beautiful country.

After crossing Hwy 10 we found our short cut road was washed out & we soon scheduled a new route, arriving before noon at the Imperial Sea View Park, close to the Salton Sea.



We are located on the Hot Mineral Spar Road. Would suggest they move these hot mineral springs up to Joshua Tree....would do a tremendous business. We are all parked close together, with full hook ups including Cable TV. And, all for \$12.50 the night, a real bargain!

Can't help but bring up a touch of humor delivered on today's drive. With things a bit quiet on our CB Channel, your reporter thought a joke might be in order! ...



....Quote..."A horse strolled into a Tavern, sat down at the bar to order a drink. The Bar Tender came up, said'So, ...why the long face' ". Now this joke came from the Readers Digest, with over 2,000,000 readers, 95% of whom laughed at this story. BUT, the airways were totally silent.....not a sound from our trusty travelers! A real bomb!

So I went over the joke in my mind again....almost ran off the road laughing. Chuckled for fourteen miles.

MONDAY, March 1st. A beautiful clear morning. Not a cloud in sight. Last night's instructions for arrival time at the Country Roads RV Park was twelve noon, or later. It would be a two hour drive. Then we remembered that Arizona is in the next time zone, so most of us departed at 9:00AM.

How GREAT to find Alma & Bob Connell at the one and only Rest Stop on the morning run. They had already been on the road for several days. We were nicely set up in camp by noon, California time. Then, in drove Virginia & Dale Leipper. Have not seen them since Hat Creek last September. Sure nice to see them again. After all, they now live on the other side of the Sierra Range, and there has been a record setting snow fall all winter.

And what fun to have Helen Weber & Rodger with us at Happy Hour. (Barbara was at a meeting, but we would see her tomorrow.) Lots of chatter and catching up on news with Helen. Plans were made for a busy stop here in Yuma. Should mention that Alma forgot to set her watch ahead so missed most of Happy Hour. Bob Connell broke out a large bag of Salton Sea area Grapefruit so we all returned to our trailers with grapefruit for breakfast. And the sweetest we found on the entire trip.

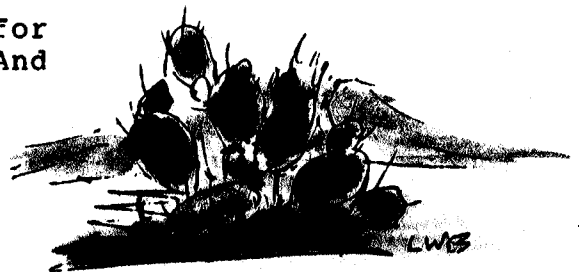
The only real worry is Where is Lucille Conners? She was scheduled to meet us here in Yuma.

TUESDAY, March 2 - Yuma. Weather perfect! One can understand why so many people move to this part of the world every Winter.

Earl Pettis has organized a trip over the Border this morning.....leaving at 10:00AM. It was a pleasant trip and a few American Dollars were left south of the border. Shirley came back with a beautiful Taxco Silver ring. Dorothy Schneider claims to have show considerable restraint at first.....that is, in the early part of the tour. But she soon got into gear and under full throttle! Her important purchases were leather vests for both she and Bob. Understand Earl was of considerable help in driving the shrewd bargain. Talking of Earl, he drifted off to a Mexican Barber for a hair cut. So still more of the American Dollars go South, and our Caravan Barbers needed the business.

At 4:00PM we loaded up the cars for the run down to Helen Weber's home. And what a party it was. Unlimited Margaritas, Hamburgers with potato salad, and fancy cake for desert. THANK YOU HELEN! And thanks to Barbara, Rodger, & Jessica, for their help and hospitality. We do appreciate the pleasant evening .

And our compliments to the cooks. Bob Connell & Earl Pettis did an outstanding job cooking up those Hamburgers!



WED. MARCH 3 - Yuma. A fine clear morning - not a cloud in the sky. 10:00AM was departure time for the tour of the old Federal Prison, old town, and then lunch. Members of our group were seen scurrying around the phone booths, laundry room, & the general buildings. By the time ten o'clock rolled around our people were involved in many other activities and the prison tour was canceled.

Now folks, we must report an unfortunate event of yesterday. Alma dropped by the Gorman trailer. Shirley had her hands in the potato salad she was preparing, so could not secure the dog. Sparky, in his excitement, kicked open the door, jumped up, biting Alma in the arm.

Today, Alma had to go to the Hospital for a Tetanus shot, X-Rays, and other attention to her arm. It did not look good. When the Gormans returned from lunch the uniformed officer from the Health Dept. was waiting. Picked up Sparky and took him off for a ten day impoundment.

To more cheerful things: TONIGHT is the oft postponed Champagne Celebration hosted by the Gormans & Nina. Nina in honor of her new GMC Suburban and Gormans for their new 34' Limited Trailer! Two beautiful additions to the Club. Turned out to be a pleasant gathering and we were pleased to have Helen Weber, Barbara, & Rodger with us.

THURSDAY, Mar 4, 1993 - Yuma. Another clear beautiful morning. Must always be this way. No wonder there are so many people everywhere. The Markets are Jam-Packed with shoppers.....except for our group, they all seem to be old folks! Thousands of them!

At 10:00AM we headed off to the "Pick your own" Grapefruit Farm. With Lloyd in the lead we were only lost twice! The same smiling couple we saw last year were there to hand out buckets & directions. Seemed only ten minutes and our buckets were full and we headed over to the asparagus warehouse, but it was closed down. Perhaps the new Democratic Leadership's tactics has "done them in"!

At noon the cars were loaded for the trip over to the famous Mexican Restaurant we have visited so often on previous caravans. Everyone seemed pleased with the outcome.

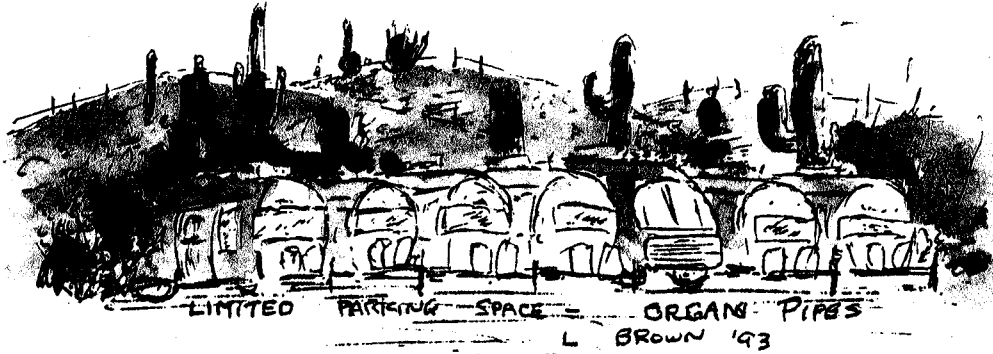
Oh yes! The Benjamin/Brown Caravan Barbershop did indeed open for business this morning. Three men and one lady were hacked at, sniped, clipped, & altered hopefully for the best. In working on Jack, Lloyd forgot that he had removed his glasses until had finished cutting one side. Many thought it looked no worse than the second side cut with the glasses.

How nice at Happy Hour to have Helen, Barbara, & Rodger with us again. It was a sad farewell as they drove off, and the table & chairs were folded up indicating the end of our Yuma stay.

FRIDAY, March 5 187 miles to Organ Pipes Nat'l Mont. There was no organized departure time and most left at about 8:15AM. A beautiful drive taking just over four hours with time to fill up with gas in Gila Bend.

Group Aarea Campsite No 2 was ready for us. As we remembered from previous visits it takes very close and skilled parking to get us all safely parked, but Jack was equal to the challenge.

Of course we had to be parked "snuggled up" with no room for awnings or other frills. With luck you could open your door. But what a quiet and beautiful spot! Not many such places left for our use.



We were all parked, leveled, and settling down when Chris & Glen Cox drove in. What excitement! Been a year or more since last seeing them, yet looking younger than ever. Must be that New Mexico air. Wonderful to see them again. Since receiving word that Lucille would not be joining us, we are now at full strength.....eleven rigs. The only complaint we have is that Glen arrived with a fresh hair cut. The Benjamin/Brown Barber Shop sure does need the business.

SATURDAY, March 6 Organ Pipes Waffle Breakfast morning. And what a private, beautiful, and absolutely perfect spot this is. Bob Connell whipped out his two burner propane plate, hooked it up to his trailer bottle, and with Bob Schneider's help, was soon turning out golden brown waffles.....well, actually there were one or two that tended to look black rather than brown, but these were quietly fed to the birds.

And talking of birds, what a great spot for bird watching. Exciting to see birds that are unknown back home. Cactus Wren. Curved Bill Thrasher. Gila Woodpecker. White Winged Dove. The Phainopepia, etc.

And back to the wonderful waffle breakfast: lets not overlook Alma who cooked up those fine sausages. And Jack who overlooked the entire event. Well done, folks!

The morning was used up by Tile Games, hikes up the Nature Trail, runs into Lukevell, and one very strenuous hike to the old gold mines. Several started but only Earl and Jay went the entire way.

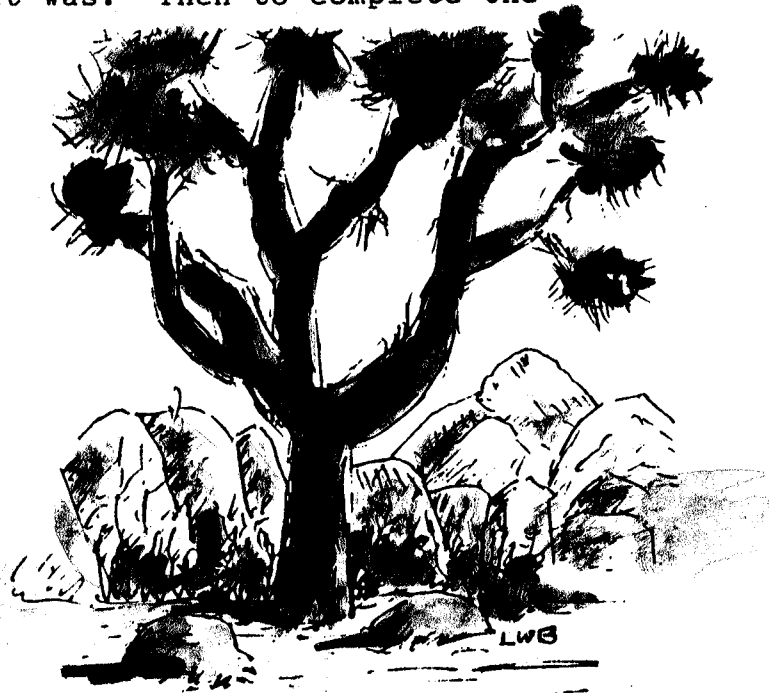
One can't help but sit quietly and contemplate on the contrast between a spot such as this.....and perhaps the most modern, elaborate, and fancy RV Park in the world, the Country Roads resort we just left in Yuma. The one has full hook-ups, lots of people, swimming pools, etc. Here we have the place entirely to ourselves but the beauty and serenity of Nature. You make the decision.

For dinner, Bob Connell skillfully prepared an outstanding bean dish. Specially selected beans from some secret part of the world. He then barbecued Hot Dogs, served them exactly on the scheduled time, with Alma overlooking all the fixings. Glen Cox then broke out a

a large bottle of wine. Thanks to Alma & Bob....and to Glen. What a pleasant evening it was. Then to complete the picture, an absolutely full moon came out. Seemed so close in this clean air, you could almost reach out and touch it!

SUNDAY, Mar 7 A Bright clear morning. Today we move the 147 miles to Tucson. A good back country road thru' beautiful rolling hills. Have never seen the desert so green and live with new growth. A rainy season has done the trick.

Most of this morning's drive was through Indian Reservations. Their little homes were scattered over the countryside. Now and then we passed a little Trading Post.



The Rincon Country West RV Park was all ready for us and we were nicely parked side-by-side before noon. Space was reserved in a close by spot for the dog owners, altho' by now we were down to Freckles, the one and only. Remember that Sparky was still in jail back in Yuma, and Lucille with her two dogs has now canceled out.

It is an interesting experience to find we are parked amongst a sizable

group of RV owners who are deaf & dumb. As they arrive, they greet each other with warm hugs, then break rapidly into sign language. And can they "talk" fast! It is almost beyond belief the long & complicated conversations they carry on. Amazing! We sure didn't hear much noise from their Happy Hours.

With the very wide spacing in this Mobile Home Park, there was lots of room for our usual Social Hour. Aside from a touch or two of old Barley Corn by some of our more shady characters, the time was used in gossip and working out tomorrow's activities. Weather absolutely perfect.



MONDAY, Mar 8 - Tucson 52 degrees last night.....81 today. Not bad! Some of our group did laundry early. Some left for the world famous Desert Museum. Shirley says it had many improvements over previous visits. Some visited Old Tucson Town, the scene of many a Western Movie. Even the gun fight at the old corral was visited.

In mid-afternoon, Virginia drove Gerry & Shirley across town to visit the "Old Pueblo Trader", the outfit who has been sending all of us catalogs for many years. The news is not that they spent money like sailors on shore leave, but that Virginia did such a great job in driving them back through the heavy traffic in time for Happy Hour. Traffic was really HEAVY! A.J.Foyt could not have done a better job.

At Happy Hour Nina introduced Jean & Bob, her guests. Never met a nicer couple. Turns out Jean was Nina's roommate in their first year at College. Has kept in touch by Xmas Cards but never seen each other since then.

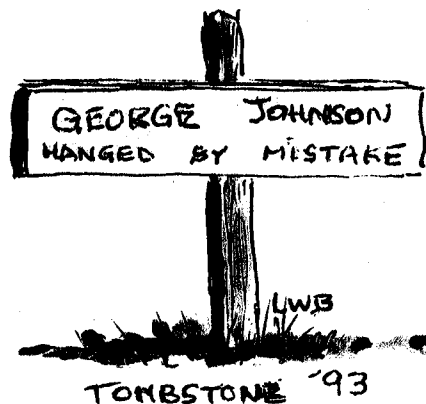
TUESDAY, March 9 Off for Tomestone today. 75 miles by Free-Way or 135 miles by the scenic southern route. Actually, either way was beautiful with so much open space and the high mountains in the background.

Various stops were made by different trailers. Perhaps the most interesting visit was made by Earl & Gerry. The Titan 11 Launch Site was established about 1962 and became our main strength during the Cold War. Was dismantled in '83. Earl & Gerry were able to tour the entire facility as now a public museum. .

This base was underground and protected by heavy concrete cover. The crew was locked in for nine day periods. The three missiles each had three possible targets, unknown to the crew. Each had two widely spaced control buttons.....no one person could reach both. When the President sent the word, it would take two or more to activate the firing...once fired there was no turning back, the bomb was on it's way. The most distant target in the world could be reached in 35 minutes. Lets all thank GOD, sincerely, that this equipment never had to be used.

And what a friendly young couple we found running the Wells Fargo RV Park here in Tombstone. And how fortunate for our shoppers that we are located right down town within walking distance of the shops.

And our thanks to Glen & Chris for setting up the bar for this evening's Happy Hour. The ice, the mix, the spirits, everything! A very nice gesture indeed. THANKS.



Most of our group then walked the short distance to the BELLA UNION RESTAURANT. The setting was charming, the Service excellent, and the food quite good. A nice evening and within one block of our Park.

WEDNESDAY, Mar 10

Another beautiful day. Some did laundry, some took walks. Many were seen walking in and out of the little shops filled with those wonderful things that attract tourists.

The gunfight took place at the corner of Third & Fremont streets, as per schedule!

An old Stagecoach arrived several times. Think it may have been the same one, simply driving around the block.... not through traffic on the El Paso - LA run.

Jack repaired the Bal Jacks on his trailer. Others puttered around. Our women were seen going too and from town with packages and bundles. Money was being spent!

THEN, following Happy Hour, a very special TREAT! We were served the World Famous Chile Bean Dinner, prepared and furnished by Glen Cox. The Glen Cox Chile is well know throughout the Southwest! Thanks very much Glen!

And thanks to the ladies who cooked up the Corn Bread. Might also thank the Unit for the left-over wine that rounded out this feed. What a pleasant evening.

THURSDAY, March 11 - Tombstone. A quiet morning in camp. One would think that our folks had by now run out of money. But several were seen again slinkin into town, and returning with packages that were whisked quietly into their trailers. Don't want to mention names.....BUT that Dotty Schneider has sure been active. Shirley is doing pretty good. Alma was busy, and Christine is talking bank loans.

As outlined last evening by Joe Gorman, the cars loaded up about 10:00AM, and headed off for Huachuca City. Then Lunch at Fort Huachuca. Turned out very well.

In early afternoon a very strong gusty wind came up and those left in camp raced around rolling up awnings.

This was Pot Luck night and Shirley had things well organized. And what a fine meal it was, even to Strawberry Shortcake desert. This being the last evening that all eleven rigs will be present, Joe presented Marian & Jay a token of appreciation for their leadership on this Caravan #49. A hand crafted American Indian Vase.



Some questioned the large words Joe used in the presentation of the Leith gift. Which prompted his translation: ... "worked his ass off"! Jay seemed very pleased with the gift and responded - "It was great leading you as tail gate Charlie".

During Happy Hour (which was cold & windy) we learned that the morning visit to the Museum was outstanding and that the Wal-Mart store was so large the group got scattered. Only had forty minutes to shop.....some could not find their way out. Bob S. could not find Dorothy - Bob O. lost Rosa - Shirley could not find where she had parked her loaded cart! WOW, thats a big store!

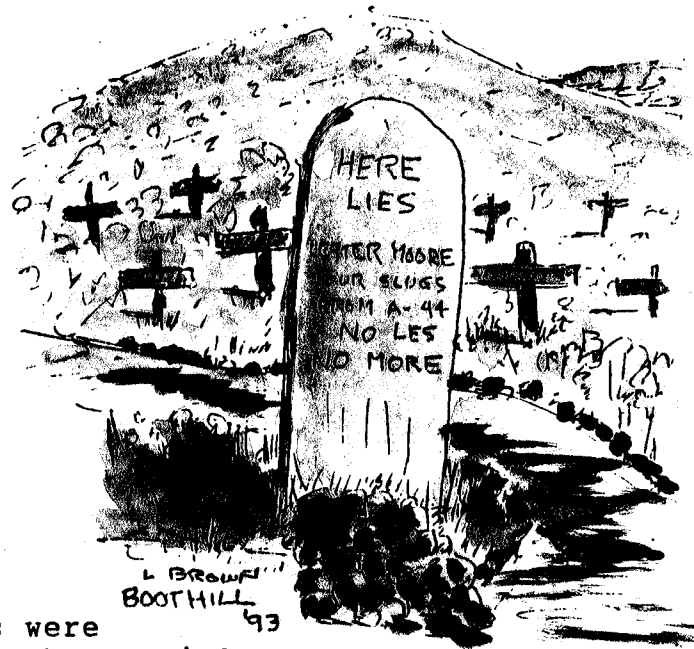
After dinner the Browns served after dinner drinks to celebrate the closing of Escrow on the 3rd & final piece of Los Gatos property. They have been using FAX, Fed Express, & telephone daily on the entire trip until the Caravan is sick of the subject. So, now to peace & quiet.

FRIDAY, Mar 12 - Tombstone Another clear bright morning. Joe & Shirley hooked up to travel back to Yuma to pick up Sparkey. He's been in jail, you know! They will miss our Sedona visit and meet us again in Needles.

A few more runs were made on the downtown stores. Chris has by now run out of her personal spending money. No need to look to Glen....even hit Lloyd for a loan...But you know Scotchman Brown. Is making lay-away deposits and will be sending for stuff for months.

A pleasant surprise when Glenna & Harry Meyers drove in. Returning from the Mardi Gras Rally and points East. Say the Rally was OUTSTANDING! Glenna added a large fruit salad and they joined us for lunch made up of left-over's from last night's Pot Luck.

As the afternoon wore on the zeal & enthusiasm mounted. Rumors were thick of bargain purchases made at the special Indian jewelry store (where Chris is now known by her first name.) The Schneiders returned with great purchases. The Connells hurried off to get their share of the good stuff. Earl reported that Gerry had been active. Ruth shuffled nervously. Earl did not buy another hat.



By now the late comers had been exposed to the "horse - bar - why the long face" story. They, too, did little laughing. Brown has taken quite a beating over this story.

At Happy Hour a toast was raised to Cris & Glen Cox - they leave us tomorrow to return home. It's been a year since we've been with them & probably another year before they can again be with our group. Goodbye's were also said to the Olivers - they will continue on with the Cox's for a visit with relatives in El Paso.

At six, most of the group walked across the street to the Veterans of Foreign Wars building for a fish dinner that was being served. Bob Connell organized all this and the dinner was quite good. A nice experience. Thanks Bob for working this up for us.

SATURDAY, March 13 - Farewells to the Chris & Glen. It's been fun having them with us and we look forward to next year. Farewell also to the Olivers, altho' we know we will be seeing them again very soon at the Donald Rally.

Needless to say, Caravan 49 has been a real boost to the economy of Tombstone. We noticed that the flags were lowered to half mast as we drove out of town.

A pleasant 138 mile drive brought us to Casa Grande, and the Casita Verde Adult RV Community.

Very new and modern - in contrasts to our last few days in Tombstone. Somehow, does not have the relaxed, easy-going feeling we experienced in the Wells Fargo RV Park.

We were widely spaced and it took some walking to reach Jay's trailer for Happy Hour & Driver's Meeting. We are happy to have the Meyers with us again but they will leave us tomorrow as they head West.

Jay gave explicit instructions on finding our next stop in Sedona. Nina helped by laying out exact directions with a map drawn in the dirt with rocks for landmarks.

Can't help bringing up the "Horse Story" again. Only two nights ago there had been a talent show on TV. Singers, Dancers, Jugglers, Comedians, etc., competing for top honors. Well, Sir, one of the Comedians best stories was - - - you guessed it - - - the same "Horse Story"! So there! Not sure, but believe the Comedian won top honors.

It was reported that some of our people stopped at the Factory Outlet on today's drive. Others unhooked and drove back. It is heartening to realize there is still shopping money available in the Caravan.

SUNDAY, March 14 - Off for Sedona! 174 miles. Our farewells to the Meyers. And also to the Gerry & Earl who will rejoin us at Needles. (They will visit Quartzite).



Arrived at Rancho Sedona Mobilodge in Sedona about noon. They had saved the row of spaces we used two years ago. A very nice set up for us.

Unfortunately, Nina tripped & fell when walking into the office. Jack & Bob Connell got her rig nicely parked. About 1:00PM Lloyd drove her to Cottonwood, and the closest emergency center open on Sunday. The center was busy and it took time to bring in an Othopedic Doctor. X-Rays showed it was a cracked Collarbone and they fitted a restraining brace. A lot of pain - - and no heavy lifting for six weeks. And she is leaving for Red China in three weeks.

Arrived back at Happy Hour at 5:00. There they all sat, eating & drinking, as if nothing had happened. Takes a lot to upset the Social Hour.

Learned that the Connells had left Casa Grande at dawn this morning. Ate Breakfast at a restaurant that must serve Lumberjacks, ditch diggers, and other hard working folks. Bob's omelet measured 2'-6" across and was served with mounds of hash browns, toast, etc. No mention of what Alma ate.

Virginia bought more Silver Jewelry from an Indian parked at a Rest Stop. Dottie bought still more things along the way. Will this mad buying never stop!

A very nice H.H. Patio was used along side the Leipper trailer. What a warm & friendly Park this is, compared to the large, elaborate, formal, retirement facilities. In place of a page with a long list of things NOT TO DO, we were given a smile and handed a green frosted cup cake. (Left over from yesterday's St. Patrick's parade.)

MONDAY, March 15 - Sedona

Nice easy morning...ideal weather. This is truly beautiful country. It is understandable that people are moving here by the thousands. The traffic is heavy and the roads too narrow. There are new buildings everywhere.

Even your reporter is now caught up in this buying MELEE! Drove Ruth, Nina, and the Leippers, to the shopping center. All made purchases.

Learned at H.H. that cars were running back & forth most of the afternoon, visiting still more shops! WOW! Dottie still seems to be in the lead... showed some of her things, and they were very nice. Happy to have Nina feeling better. Quite optimistic she can make the China Trip.



TUESDAY, Mar 16 - Nice clear morning with 72 degree weather forecast. Said goodbye to the Leippers.....going to visit relatives....will rejoin us at the Donald Rally next week.

Picture taking, sight seeing, and a visit to the beautiful "Chapel of the Holy Cross", used up the morning. This unique church was built from the design and drawings of Frank Lloyd Wright and seems to fit right in with the Red Rocks of Sedona.

Ruth cooked up a Cajun Bean Soup for lunch. The ten people currently with the Caravan could all sit at the one large table, and with the help of wine from last month's Rally, it was a pleasant gathering.

A quiet afternoon. Still some shopping going on. The usual Social Hour wound up a nice restful day.

WEDNESDAY, March 17 - Sedona A quiet morning. Cars were gassed up for tomorrow's run. The pantries were restocked from Safeway. The Red Rock State Park was a worthwhile visit. A beautiful new facility.

Bob & Alma decorated their trailer with Shamrock Posters, Leprechauns, Four Leaf Clover, etc. This to celebrate St. Patrick's day, and the Corn Beef & Cabbage dinner they were preparing for tonight's dinner. Then spent the afternoon watching over things.....two large pots set up outside on Bob's two burner plate.

Nice to have Ginny & Don Johnson (former Region 12 President) with us for Happy Hour. The Connells had bumped into them down town and invited them over. Live part of the year in Sedona.

So, our thanks to Alma & Bob for a very pleasant evening. The decorations, the good meal, the Company, the fellowship.....GREAT!

THURSDAY, March 18 225 miles to Needles. The drive up through Oak Creek Canyon was beautiful. The amount of damage done by the flooding creek was startling. Private bridges across the creek were washed out. Creekside campgrounds were gone. The foundations were washed out beneath homes.....simply gone!

The Needles Marina Park was the reunion point with the Gormans & Pettis's. Shirley & Joe had picked up Sparky in Yuma, and Earl & Gerry had made the "end of Season" visit to Quartzite.

Happy Hour was held along side the Leith trailer. Revised plans were made for the balance of the Caravan. A crossing of the Sierra Range seemed unlikely because of the continuing snowfall. Death Valley would be dropped and the group agreed on staying South to reach central California.

Nina, the Browns, & the Connells would be leaving the group tomorrow morning. Nina for her China Trip. Browns to handle home mail & prepare for coming Donald Rally. The Connells to visit their daughter in Sacramento, before the Rally.

The evening ended with a few snide remarks about the horse, the bar, "so.....why the long face"! Then Gerry Pettis had the nerve to tell the Bob Dahame Pig Story! Now there's a real story! No more of this long face stuff!

The group stayed an extra day in Needles. There was much to do to catch up on things. Some contemplated the short run up to Laughlin and the money to be made.

On Saturday, March 20, they moved to Barstow. Found the Meyers there. Some went up to Calico and there is a rumor that Dorothy did some more shopping.

Sunday and Monday was spent at Lake Isabella. This was thoroughly explored and Shirley lined up a good restaurant for lunch.

Joe & Shirley left very early Monday to keep an appointment they had made with the Manteca Airstream Dealer to have their awning repaired. Turns out that the dealer then failed to have the parts, and the trip was worthless.

On Tuesday the group moved to the Country Living RV Park in Madera. Turned out to be one of the best parks of the trip.

It was now a comfortable drive to Sutter Creek, and the Howard Donald March Rally. Thus ends Caravan #49. Eleven trailers/coaches participated. We were out for thirty days, and covered about 2,750 miles. It was a happy and successful Caravan and we enjoyed seeing Helen Weber and Chris & Glen Cox again. THANKS, Jay, for all the work in organizing the event. It was another good Monterey Bay Unit Outing! THANKS !

P.S. ONLY TWO RIGS MADE THE
ENTIRE TRIP - SCHNEIDERS & BENJAMIN!

L. BROWN



So--- WHY THE
LONG FACE ?