

News from Nancy
May 2015

Well, I was wrong. We didn't leave on Thursday, the 24th (the day after Grant was released from the doctor); we waited until Saturday. Actually, that worked out quite good. We parked the RV directly across the street from the park model. I had everything bagged and ready to move into the RV. Then we lived in it for a day or two and that way I can figure out what I have forgotten to pack. We've done it that way for three or four years and it works. Of course, if you remember, we had the RV in to the doctor to get its radiator fixed first. All is once again under control. Our trip home was good. We didn't stop along the way to do any sight-seeing and I don't like that. Taking breaks along the way seems to work better for both of us. The Joy Boy seemed in a hurry to get back this year so we made it in three days. Well, actually, we stopped in my home town to see my mother and spent three days there. That was good. She is 98 now and is an amazing woman, still living on her own. I want to be just like her when I grow up!

On the way home my mother called me to tell me my Uncle Alvin had just been diagnosed with cancer and was in the hospital. Alvin is my dad's youngest brother and only ten years older than me. We have always been close. Anyway, we went right to Sioux City, IA to see him and I have to tell you, he cheered me up right away. He is always so positive. He said the chaplain had just been in. Alvin says, "I told her "I know He (and he pointed upward) has a house up there ready for me but my room just isn't finished yet." The chaplain told him that she really liked that, that she was going to use that in one of her sermons. Alvin said, "You come back, I'll have some more for you". Isn't that neat? I just love that man.

Grant was still having some problems with his heart when we got home so went into the doctor and they put a heart monitor on him. We don't have any results yet. You know how that goes. We'll just have to wait for the results on that too. By the end of the month of May, things seem to be getting under control. He hasn't had any AFib for a couple weeks now.

When we heard from Elvin Shaw last, he was home and enjoying just being there. Home always feels best after being in the hospital so long. I'll just bet Audrey is resting better too. These days Elvin is dealing with his shoulder and eye problems that were put on hold while he dealt with his infection. They have a park model up by Prescott Valley so I'm sure they will be headed up there before too long, you know, when it gets too hot for everybody in the valley.

That reminds me, Gidget wrote me a note and said they were headed up to Prescott Valley too. They have a home up there for the hot summer months. They summer up there so I'm sure they will see the Shaws, at least until they get it sold. They seem to have one house too many. J

I really want to thank all of you people who have written to me after they got my letter. I love that and appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Hilda Nichols even sent me one of her quickie recipes so now I will share it with you. Love getting recipes from everyone. Keep 'em coming! Make 1 small package of vanilla pudding according to directions. After it's cooked, add one dry yellow cake mix. It will not be runny but put it in a 9x13 pan. Sprinkle a 12 oz. package of butterscotch chips over the top. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. And enjoy she says. I don't know about you but I know I will!

Beverly Armstrong wrote that they had just gotten to Portland, Oregon via St. George, Utah, Ely, Nevada, Pendleton, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. Then they were headed down to Salem for some RV work and later will land in Corvallis to visit their west coast family. Later they will fly to Philly to visit their east coast family for Memorial Day and then, who knows. That family sure puts on the miles don't you think?

Jack Foster wrote that they were getting packed and ready to head to Mexico for three weeks. He does photo work twice a year for a club down there. We can say we used to know him "back when". This year Feits' were going along with them. Just maybe some year we will have to join them too.

Jo Westerhausen called me to chat. They were having to wait for their sons 50th birthday to be able to head north too. They usually go to Oregon but had to wait it out. (Gee, it wasn't their son's fault that he was born in the Spring!) If you remember, they lost their Jeep and RV a year ago in an accident so this year they are going to try motels. I'm eager to hear how that is going. Keep in touch Jo. (Jo was concerned if we were freezing or not, being up north you know, but actually it was in the high 70's and just lovely "at that time".)

Ah yes, Jo wanted to know if we were freezing. Well, not that week! May is so fickle in the Midwest. I'm sure you have heard about all the storms, including tornados. It never fails, whenever we hit the road with the RV, the weather locates us. I rather doubt the shower houses would be left standing either if a tornado hit but that is always where the campgrounds send you. Once again, we had gone to visit our family in the cities (Minneapolis-St. Paul area) when a storm came up. No, we didn't have a tornado but the winds and rains were terrible. I will never get used to it and I have lived here for "many" years. When we got back home we found two trees had blown over into the river. The bank had been saturated with rains so there wasn't much holding the root system. We have a little "sun room" where we eat our breakfast and lunch but I call it our "rain and wind room".

Memorial Day is a solemn day in our household. We always go to the parade, when there is one, and the memorial service held at a park or cemetery. Grant and I usually like to do a picnic too, just because we like picnics. This morning, while reading the paper, I ran across a poem I'd like to share with you. It sort of says it all I think.

"Last Monday in May"
We pause to remember those who died
With so much courage,
So much pride.
They'll never come back
But memories endure
To remind us of freedom: fragile,
Pure.
We're worthy of their sacrifice
If we pause each day to remember,
Not just on the last Monday in May.
By John T. Bird of Birmingham, Ala.

One more recipe to follow on next page ...

A long time ago I got a recipe out of the paper, for “Instant Cream Soup” and I want to share it with you. It is so handy in the RV. You can use it for any type of cream soup you need in a recipe. Keep a plastic bag of it in your refrigerator while traveling.

Instant Cream Soup

2 cups powdered milk

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup cornstarch

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup instant chicken bouillon

1 teaspoon onion powder

1 teaspoon thyme (optional)

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon basil (optional)

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper

Combine and store in an airtight container.

To use for soup, combine $\frac{1}{3}$ cup mix and $1\frac{1}{2}$ cup water and bring to a boil, stirring often. You can add diced celery, sliced mushrooms, chopped broccoli or chopped chicken. To use for recipes calling for a can of cream soup, use $\frac{1}{3}$ cup mix and $1\frac{1}{4}$ cup water. Simmer for a few minutes, stirring often