

News from Nancy
March 2015

Our Chapter 309 breakfast meeting was held on Tuesday, March 3rd. A short business meeting was held with a request from the Western International Rally for a monetary support of approximately \$500. After much discussion, we vetoed the idea and nothing will be sent. As it is, only one of the clubs are giving them any money, all turning down the request.

After that business was under control, I went in search of a new treasurer. Don had called Thom and told him that they are having to drop out of the club. Mary and Don Schweppe had to sell their Holiday Rambler because of Don's eye problems and no longer being able to drive. Mary has been such an asset to our club, serving as treasure, and has certainly come through for me when I became President. They will be missed. Thank you Schwepptes for your past support.

We did welcome new members while at the meeting. Howard and Marion Clewett actually joined our club earlier but this was the first time they attended anything. They live in Sun City West and are eager to get involved. Please give them a warm welcome.

After our short meeting, Susan and Dorothy from "Badges-R-Us" joined us to share a little about their past involvement with Holiday Rambler and tell us just what they have to sell. It's not only badges you know. They had a little pamphlet to leave with us and were kind enough to give us an insulated cup for a drawing too. Jim Midget was the lucky name drawn.

When Thom gave me the boxes of Holiday Rambler things, I found a notebook with a lot of my old newsletters. Now I just want you to know ahead of time, that I'm not above borrowing past stories from my old letters. I guess there aren't too many of you "oldsters" left that would have read them anyway. Just a warning ...

I haven't heard about the AZ & NM State Rally but I trust Thom will tell you all about that in his newsletter. I want to tell you about the campout that we had in Picacho Peak. It was like the campouts of old (with a campfire missing). There were only three couples at this one but we made the best of it. Actually, it was rather nice to get better acquainted with old friends. Barbara Laursen told me she had learned more about Grant in the first day there than she had known in all these years we have known each other. Not much was planned so we just did whatever we chose to do in the area. We all went to Eloy and watched the sky divers. It was a first time for Laursens so that is always exciting. Jody and Darrell Burtis had a granddaughter who had jumped earlier. Would you believe that girl is afraid to ride in an airplane but would jump out of one ... and would you believe, she wants to do it again? There were jumpers from different countries all over the place. Normally I can figure out which country people are from but there were a lot of different sounding ones. J

One afternoon we went with Laursen to "Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson". Normally you imagine you will see all kinds of flowers in a Japanese garden. However, remember this is in the desert so we saw a Courtyard Garden with clay walled and shingle roofed viewing shelters called machiai. We saw a Grass Garden. This was interesting as it had a beginning of a bamboo grove which screens the Stone and Gravel Garden. In Japan, a garden can be comprised of as little as rocks and gravel stones. Then too, there was Zen Comtemplative Garden. This flat, rectangle expanse of raked white gravel is enclosed by granite edging and a border of water worn dark gray cobbles at the foot of unadorned walls on three sides. Oh yes, of course there was a Pond Garden with a small pond full of koi fish. Larry bought some feed so we tried feeding them but they weren't very hungry. Near the pond were stone lanterns and trees and it was rather pretty. A fun day out and something a little different than the ordinary.

Grant and I fixed "campers stew" in our old cast iron pot for dinner one evening. Jody didn't think she liked cabbage but she did ask for seconds. I just had to give her a little rough time about that. Jody made a south west casserole for dinner the next night and the third night we went out for dinner. We went to a KOA down the road that has a little restaurant and the food was great. Barbara L. made our breakfast one morning and that was just perfect. We just couldn't ask for anything more. We could sit outside in the morning and drink our coffee and of course our dinners were outside and the sunsets were outstanding. All that was missing was the campfire. Bummer! Oh, must tell you, early one evening, while we were all sitting out, a couple walked by with a cat on a leash. This was not an ordinary cat. It was huge. I thought it was a wild cat. Larry went over to talk to them. I still don't know the kind of cat but it was gold with large dark spots on it. I thought Larry would have put the picture on his face book. (It's not too late Larry). The view from our camp site was outstanding with one of the largest stands of saguaros I have ever seen and we were overlooking the valley. Anyway, it was a great campout and we sure do thank Darrell and Jody Burtis. The rest of you missed out on a good one!

Oh yes, while at the campout, I took advantage of everyone being so lazy and peaceful and I asked Larry if he would be the new Treasurer. HE SAID YES! Thank you Larry. I think I have everything under control now and it's only the end of March!

My mind wanders while I write so I never know where I am going from one minute to the next. I just want to share what our new pastor at church said one Sunday. He had just arrived from Fargo, ND and said he had been talking to a friend up north and told him that he had moved to an area where they never put their shopping carts where they are to be returned. He said, "Now, if each one of you would just put a cart away when you get to the store, maybe this would catch on and we could clear up the parking lots." Grant and I looked at each other and laughed as we have been doing that very thing for a long time. I decided I would just pass the word along for what it's worth and just maybe ...

The later part of the month, Grant had an ablation done. This is a procedure where they go up the groin and cauterize the veins into his heart. He has had A-Fib for 8 or 9 years and all they had been doing was giving him another pill or upping the dosage. They had finally run out of options so we hope this works now. He was given an 80 % success rate so we hope this will do the trick. He had this done on a Tue., the 24th. I got him home by 7:30 on Wednesday and would you believe, Friday he had a kidney stone attack. On the 31st he had an xray and it was still there. They said it was a 7 ½ cm in size and he could never pass it so they planned to zap it on Mon. However, the evening of the 31st we think he passed it. Could it be???

Audrey called and told me Elvin had a pace maker put in about seven weeks ago. After about six weeks he was put in the hospital with MRSA. He was transferred into Scottsdale. This is a terrible infection that is so hard to get rid of. They removed the pace maker and cleaned the area, put a new one in his neck as he is 100% dependant on it. They are having a problem yet getting his blood count back to where it should be so it's a waiting game.

So, how was your month?