



MOUNTAIN ECHOES)))))))

COLORADO FRONT RANGE SKPs CHAPTER FOUR

VOL 8, No.4

November 2003

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WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT??

Just send me an article of information (news you want shared with the members--no secrets!) for the newsletter to Shirley Krohn. E-mail to: krohnjs@aol.com or mail to 159 Rainbow Drive #5915, Livingston, TX 77399-1059. Keep in mind it takes TWO weeks for the mail to get to me. Deadlines (loosely!) are: 10 Jan, 10 Apr, 10 Jul; 10 Oct.

NEW MEMBERS

Invite SKPs who might want to join Chapter 4 to send their membership fee of \$5 a year to Brenda McFillen, #50825, 15925 Herring Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80908. If any corrections to the membership listing are needed, send updates to Shirley Krohn, address above.

A warm SKP welcome to:
Stanley & Maxine Metsker, # 78043, 2301 Afton Way,
Colorado Springs CO 80909; 719-634-6156;
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Mike & Sue Knapik, # 82004, P.O. Box 1266 (65 Rosita Cir.),
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Roy & Dolores Kirby, #927, 22330 Jones Rd, Peyton, CO
80831; 719-683-4755

J.R. & Karen Bailey, #82512, 550 E. 9th St, Loveland, CO
80537; 970-669-1757; fishbailey@aol.com

Changes:

Bob & Mary Wilcox, 3700 S. Westport Ave #2246, Sioux Falls, SD 57106-6344

Jack Segrest, 14390 E. Marina Dr, #302, Aurora, CO 80014

Eugene Green, new e-mail: egreen12@msn.com
Ted Anderson, new e-mail: ted-shirley@mailstation.com

The following e-mail addresses were rejected when used in October; please advise editor of new e-mail address:

rkirby7777@aol.com
sejacnes@aol.com
optimumu1@aol.com
wewn2sea@aol.com
ruthie@redriver.com
penman@worldnet.att.net
bruzer1@mindspring.com
ddfreed@earthlink.net
bertg@juno.com
smetsker@poisys.net
maggi@commercialsanantonio.com

Treasurer's Report for 1 Jan 03 to 30 Oct 03

BEGINNING BALANCE \$345.20

INCOME

Interest	.72
Dues	220.00
Pin sale	2.00
SKP rally sales	7.58
Escapees	10.00
Shirt sales	58.00
Return shirt advance	130.00

Total Income \$428.30

EXPENSES

Newsletter	155.00
CARE contribution	58.00
Chuck Mulcahy rally	72.50

Total Expenses \$285.50

Balance 30 Oct. 2003 \$488.00

Brenda McFillen, Treasurer



FROM THE MEMBERS . . .

This column is for members to share with members--where you are what you're doing, what's great, and what's not!

Roger & Brenda McFillen write . . .

The McFillens, Roger and Brenda, spent the first week in September down in the Grand Canyon with the Arizona River Runners on a 7-day raft trip that was a really CLASS trip. One of the BEST weeks we've spent on this good earth! Super group of 17 guests and three guides on two of the largest rubber rafts they allow down there (30 HP outboard motors!). Each raft is capable of carrying 15 guests plus a guide and a helper, so we had LOTS of room. Great meals. They furnished EVERYTHING! All you brought was your clothes, camera, a rain suit and any beer/wine you wanted to drink. They furnished soft drinks and did all the cooking and clean up. A First Class trip that we highly recommend.

Learned a lot about how this old earth is put together and how long the canyon has been there. Time wise, one centimeter in depth equals about 500 years in time. It was so much fun we plan to do it again some day with one of the grand kids. Superb family trip. Took over 1,000 pictures and video clips, plus one of the guys took a digital video of the entire trip and made copies for everyone in our group.

Betty and Chuck Mulcahy write . . .

We just returned from a month-long trip to the Washington/Baltimore area for our son's wedding. We camped for a week in our daughter's driveway north of Baltimore. We brought cake layers and frosting in the trailer's refrigerator and decorated the wedding cake on our daughter's dining room table, then transported it 2 hours to Virginia where the wedding was held in an old colonial home that used to be owned by George Washington. Fortunately, the weather held, and the ceremony could be performed outside, next to the Potomac River.

After the wedding, we headed west, but got no farther than Cumberland, Maryland, when we encountered a problem with our truck. We limped into Cumberland just as the Ford dealership closed and boon docked in their parking lot for the night. We had to spend 3 nights in that parking lot waiting for a part to be delivered for a 10-minute fix! But Shafer Ford loaned us a car on the third day, so we were able to explore the C & O canal trail and a museum of the canal in their train station.

Once we were on the road again, we ambled our way home over the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, then down through Wisconsin where we rented a canoe to paddle around the Mississippi backwaters. We stayed on back roads through Iowa and Nebraska and sampled various small-town cafes for breakfasts.

The highlight of the return trip was the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument on route 80 near Kearny, Nebraska. After following the Oregon Trail through Nebraska and Wyoming

last fall, this museum spanning the highway brought the whole experience together. It immerses visitors into the movement West right up through the '60s. It's worth the visit!

28 Oct . . . Chuck's been diagnosed with prostate cancer, so he's started some treatments. Next week we leave to go to Brazil for a week on a little boat down the Amazon -- a trip we've had planned for some time. His treatments will continue when we return.
Hugs, Betty Mulcahy

Jack & Shirley Krohn write . . .

Our work project in MI ended the third week of Sep and we made a beeline to CO as Jack was scheduled for foot surgery the following week. The rush was so that it would heal in time for him to be ready for our next project in Tucson in Nov. He is fine except when he forgets he had surgery and kicks the tires to check their pressure when we are on the road!

This fall the CO weather was outstanding. In Denver we had just a few days of really cool weather the end of Sep but then Oct brought a wonderfully warm Indian Summer (sometimes even hot). That is, until the day (25 Oct) we planned to depart Colorado Heights--we awoke to about 2" of snow! A couple hours later the sun was out, it melted and we were on our way. For those of you who might be heading south on I-25, Raton pass area was still under construction with only one-lane traffic north and south. It appeared to be about finished except for berms and striping. Construction that had been ongoing in Albuquerque was all finished and it certainly improved the flow of traffic.

Fall colors were just beginning when we left MI in Sep. When we departed CO, most of the trees were brown or bare but many places in NM along the Rio Grande were still golden. We noticed from Las Vegas to south of Santa Fe, that the short cedar trees (bushes?) were affected either by drought or disease. There were almost as many dead ones as live ones.

Tonight at St David, AZ, the sunset was magnificent. We saw some pretty sunsets in MI and CO but they just don't compare to the azure blue sky and brilliant coral clouds in AZ sunsets.

Ed & Gloria Helmuth write . . . (now at Asheville, NC)

We did not renew our Chapter 4 membership this year, We had to cut back on some of our activities as I had a little medical scare at the Fall Escapade, and we have decided to slow down a number of our Escapee Club activities. Age is beginning to take a toll on many of us and because Ed and I hope to continue traveling some, we need to take better care of ourselves.

We are in the southeast, enjoying the Carolinas, seeing fall colors and are on our way to spend the winter at Bushnell and at the Plantation. Then we will be off to Europe again for the spring and summer. We plan to tour

Italy and then Scandinavia in a rental RV, out of Hamburg, Germany.

We think of our Chapter 4 friends regularly and look forward to seeing you all again one of these days!

Larry & Donna Pribble write . . .

Larry and Donna are on the move again. We enjoyed a full summer of traveling from Reen River, Utah, home again and then back over the same road to Chapter 2 rally. We tried to talk them into having the next regional rally but no success. They need to get the feel of what they are doing before taking on such a large project. Now we are taking six weeks and returning to New Mexico area. It has been 10 years since our first visit to the Ranch. We plan on seeing Las Cruces and Deming, and over to Arizona to Benson, Casa Grande, Yuma, Quartzite.

And we will spend some time with friends in North Ranch. Then into Las Vegas to meet with some more friends and then slowly work our way back to Utah for Christmas with family.

Joe Maraschino writes . . .

Departed for Colorado in July, a little late but the Doctors made a change in treatment plans and allowed me to head home. Spent most of Aug and Sep getting things arranged at the old farm in Grand Junction. I made a few side trips to Glen Wood Springs and I had an opportunity to go to Invesco Field to watch the Broncos loose to the Colts but it was a good trip.

I became a member of Chapter 2 and joined them at Montrose for their rally. We had a lot of fun and I met a lot of new friends. Looking forward to Chapter 2's Rally in 2004 in Montrose. Hope to see more new friends there. Departed Grand Junction 21 Oct. Had to watch Monday night football before departing; the KC & Raider game. Being a #1 Raider Hater you know who I was pulling for!

Went to Canyonlands and Dead Horse State Park. For all of you who have never been there, you cannot imagine what it's like. Pictures do not do it justice. Then I went to Four Corners, but didn't get there until about 5 PM and they closed the gates. Guess what--there is no where that you can dry camp so I kept going west. After staying the night in Kayenta I went to the Grand Canyon. The Canyon was smoke filled and picture taking was not the best.

I am now in North Ranch and will depart here no later than 4 Nov, heading back to Atwater. One sure thing, I will use I-40 and bypass all the fires in southern CA. I'll spend the winter in Atwater, with 6 to 8 weeks of radiation treatment I'll be locked in for the winter.

I hope you all have a good Thanksgiving, Christmas and enjoy yourselves for New Years but be safe. Will see you all at Loveland next July. Have a great day and God Bless.

Paul & Sandy Chamberlin write . . . (24 Aug)

Sandy had a great 40th class reunion, we've helped our kids celebrate their 10th anniversary, now we can take care of that hitch itch.

We're leaving Sunday, Aug 24 for Hart, MI with a few stops in Kansas and Missouri. We will be in Hart Sep 4 for the Chap 6 rally, then on to IN for some motor home warranty work and Escapade Sep 11-19.

After Goshen, we'll be heading for PA to see Sandy's aunt and then south to Disney World. We're supposed to start work around Oct 1 and our kids will come down Oct 11 for about 12 days. We're looking forward to that.

(and 1 Oct)

Ah, we finally arrived at Disney World. We missed seeing Mickey and Minnie, we went in the back door and they were at the front door of the Magic Kingdom.

Within 15 minutes of getting our Disney ID we found something to buy for one of our kids. We're excited about our kids and granddaughter coming down in about two weeks. Brittany's been counting the days, and picking the rides she's going on with Papa and Ga (Grandma). Ga (Sandy) is not really excited about some of the choices.

We left Denver in late August traveling through Kansas (someone decided they needed part of our antenna with Minnie attached more than we did) into Missouri where we toured some of St Louis and then met some friends in Indianapolis over the Labor Day weekend. It rained so hard a "creek" flooded less than a 1/4 mile from where we were camped.

After going to an RV rally in Hart, MI, the following weekend, we took our motor home to the factory in Nappanee, IN, for some warranty work and then onto Goshen, IN, for Fall Escapade.

We then visited with family, friends and clients in Ohio and Pennsylvania before heading south for Florida. Our trip down was made more interesting when the dash air conditioning went out. The weather has been really nice so far, especially if you're into temps in the mid 80's and humidity about the same.

We're safe, feeling fine, and looking forward to seeing our friends and family down here. Stay healthy and keep in touch.

C. B. Williams writes . . .

This summer I decided to see a bit of Colorado. After I retired and started traveling most of my excursions were out of state with trips to Alaska, Florida, Idaho, southern California and Arizona. This year I ventured out to some places I hadn't seen in Colorado.

The Colorado State Forest sounded like an interesting place so I headed north from Denver to visit that area. With stays in both the State Forest at Ranger Lakes, where I saw some moose and beautiful lakes, and the adjacent National forest where the weather was great at the time Denver was getting some real hot spells.

I met a Pecos Indian Lady at a conference I visited and was invited to the Jemez Pueblo Feast which occurred on Aug 2. The Jemez Pueblo is north of Albuquerque and west of Santa Fe. This Pueblo is generally closed to outsiders because of visitors who, in earlier years, had published information on their religious ceremonies.

We were treated very warmly even to the extent of being invited into a couple of homes where we were given fantastic meals. There was much dancing and drumming during the day.

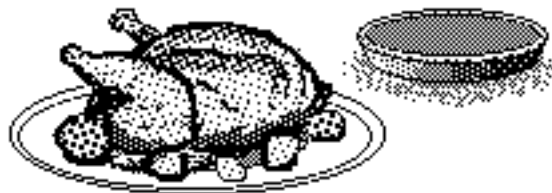
The next day we went to the little village of Pecos, NM where there was a mass conducted in the ruins of the old church that is now a public park. After these ceremonies we were again invited out for a lunch. The total experience was a very positive and enjoyable one. Our hostess was very gracious.

Leaving New Mexico I made a quick stop in Denver to get a few things for my continued trip to the Boondockers Rendezvous at Hawkseye campground in the panhandle of Idaho. We have about another week for this rendezvous then I will probably head for another one. I am meeting many of my old boondocking friends and making new ones.

Soren & Barbara Walther write . . . (18 Aug)

We are going to be in Loveland for the next couple of months while Soren recovers from surgery. We are at Fireside RV Park on West Highway 34. Would love to hear from anyone in the area. Soren's surgery will be Aug 25th with three to four days in the hospital, then about six weeks before we can travel again. Our cell phone number is 303-324-9030. [Sorry this missed the Aug NL; hope Soren is recovered and you are out of snow country already. Ed.]

Happy Thanksgiving!



RV Parking in Denver, CO, Area

(From Paul Chamberlin)

In Denver, CO, it's hard to find a place to park your RV while visiting the Mile High City that doesn't cost a small fortune. We've found one!

It's the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, just west of Denver, near Golden, CO. It's located on U S Hwy 6, the exit is Indiana St. and is well marked with directions to the fairgrounds. The fairgrounds can be seen from the highway.

The cost is \$10/night with 30/50 amps, water is available and there are dumps near by. (They don't have a dump on fairgrounds at this time.)

What really makes this a neat place to park is there's plenty to do in the area, plus, there's lots of activity at the fairgrounds. We've been here a little over a week and had free entertainment everyday. The Westernaires Riding Club trains here (this is their headquarters). They workout everyday. The Jefferson County Sheriffs Dept has dog training classes near the campground. There was an auto sales event with over 1,000 cars for sale. A club that's into medieval times meets here. They dress up in costumes and joust, etc.

With all that's going on here, it's never bothered us. You're five minutes from the mountains and I-70, C-470, U S Hwys 6 & 40. The view is great.

So much for my Chamber of Commerce speech.

ADDRESS AND E-MAIL CHANGES

If (when!) you have a change in mailing address or e-mail, please advise your editor (see addresses under IF YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT). Also, if you'd like to save the Chapter some \$, you can get your newsletter by e-mail. It will come as a PDF file attached to your e-mail, in living color, and you can print it if you want to. I like information by e-mail so I can save it without adding weight to the rig!

MAILING LABEL DATE

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL--THE DATE ON IT IS THE DATE YOUR DUES EXPIRE--send renewal dues (\$5) to Brenda McFillen, Treasurer, 15925 Herring Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80908.

When it DOES hurt to ask?

From The Wall Street Journal Sunday, August 10, 2003
(Sent by Paul Chamberlin)

Leaky rook? Stolen bike? Innocent inquiry?

You may want to think twice before even calling your insurance company.

Many home insurers count inquiry calls in which homeowners simply ask informally whether their policy will cover certain damages and are told that it won't--as unpaid losses. (Does this happen on all insurance questions--auto, health, etc.?)

Most insurance companies file loss information, paid or unpaid, into a centralized database called the Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange, better known as CLUE.

Even if a policyholder just makes a phone call and doesn't report any damage, there's still a possibility the call will get logged into the CLUE report as an unpaid loss. This information stays on the record for five years, and can mar homeowner's chances of getting a standard policy next time they apply for insurance. (What else can this have an effect on?)

The article gives examples, etc. and is under the byline *Getting Going* by Kelly K Spors e-mail address: kelly.spors@wsj.com

From your Editor. . .

Thank you so much to all who have sent news items for the newsletter. That is what makes it interesting. I apologize to those getting it by e-mail for the delays in August. It is unknown what happened to my AOL program but it just would not send an attachment. I finally got help from AOL and it was working the last time I tried it; we'll hope for the best with this issue.

This time I have a new computer--still a Macintosh but a totally different operating system--and many more gray hairs!. Most notable is its speed--I no longer have time for tea breaks while the new one boots up (in fact, I rarely turn it off unless we are relocating). Additionally, it does all this "stuff" particularly on the internet; stuff that I don't need to do! At first it was sometimes refusing to print with my new printer; I think we solved that problem. Then I learned that my ancient word processing program doesn't work on it--that was really sad. So, I do my editing on the old computer (does that sound like obstinance??) and then move the data to the new one. I did learn how to connect the two with a cable to move files back and forth. Obviously all this new "stuff" eats up disk space; the old word processing files I transferred and opened on the new system are about three times the size they were on the old computer (no wonder we need 40GB hard drives!).

If anyone sent snail mail to be included in this issue, it won't be. For the first time in over eight years our mail service failed us and sent our mail to an incorrect address so it has been a month since we had mail delivery. Hugs to all, Shirley

CHAPTER 4 WEB PAGE

You can access the Chapter 4 web page at the following URL:

www.escapees.com/website/chapters/4

Chapter 4 VOICE MAIL BOX:

888-757-7701, Ext 09004

Hear the latest info on Chapter 4 activities.

CHAPTER T-SHIRTS

Chapter 4 T-shirts are now available. The cost is \$15.00 for the shirt without a pocket and \$17.00 for the shirts with a pocket with all profits going to CARE. The new polo shirts which are royal blue in color have sold quite well. You may order from:

bodonb@aol.com or 11191 S. Cambridge Ct, Parker, CO 80138 or 303-841-3947



Travels with Roger and Brenda McFillen in Mexico

4 Mar

City tour- church of Guadalupe- three different churches, one modern and two older. 15 stations of the cross down here. All three structures are sinking as do all major structures in the city because it's built on an old lake bed that's never dried out. Most are less than six stories.

After the church we went to the Zocolo, or center city square. The plaza is the third largest in the world--church on one side, a palace and two government buildings. We toured some vendors around the square and side streets. Went into the church to cool off; a service was in progress. We got a tour of the choir semicircle, built into the center of the church along with two pipe organs. The organ they were using for the service was a very small electric one and the organist was singing the chants; at one point they sang Kum Ba Yah!!! We sang along from inside the choir spot!

We then went to the Museum of Anthropology. A most impressive courtyard structure you have to see to believe. I've got lots of pictures. Then we went to an indoor market with all the high class Mexican stuff. Got a table runner and a nice red shawl, very warm, but not wool. Last but not least we did a 30-minute stop at WalMart!

5 Mar

The Pyramids at Teotihuacan - two very large pyramids built of solid rock and rubble, NO internal rooms. Called SUN and MOON, they are connected to the temple of Quetzalcoatl by the Avenue of the Dead that has impressive rock carvings along the way. We climbed the Pyramid of the SUN, over 720 steps up and all above 8,000'. Stopped a few times on the way up. Great view and you could feel the presence of being in a holy place. Little is known about teh-oh-tee-wah-KAHN. These pyramids are among the most mysterious; very little is known about this religious center, the people that built it, or even what the city was originally called. The SUN that we climbed is five sloping levels over 250' high and the base measures 735' on each side. The MOON has a cluster of buildings surrounded by staired platforms and a square altar in the middle. MOON is 140' high, but appears as tall as SUN because it's built on higher ground.

The Temple of Quetzalcoatl had the most impressive carvings and was built more like an amphitheater, with an impressive high stage/altar. All-in-all a fun day and we had to drive thru the city to get to it.

Thoughts on Mexico--many contrasts in many ways. They are probably 5-7 years ahead of the US in propane use for heat and in vehicles. The infrastructure is in place for vehicles. Hydrogen will be an easy switch for them. Fuel is government run and the prices are the same country wide. Diesel is less than gas, but more than propane. They have all the chain stuff we do and it tastes and looks the same but cheaper. They have a larger selection of new vehicles and options to choose from.

I wouldn't drive in Mexico City on a bet!!!! It's Italy times 10. Folks on the other bus saw a motorcyclist killed yesterday. We've seen lots of fender benders and a few major accidents on the side of the road or holding up traffic. The roads are fine, but little to NO shoulder. Toll roads are really nice and not that expensive. Traffic patterns are just weird and like nothing I've ever experienced. With more time on the road it will get easier.

Their sewer system doesn't take toilet paper, so you put it in a waste basket beside the pot. We have to do the same in the rig. RV tours that don't get the word have been known to plug up an entire park system.

Great bakery products and last night a man rode a tricycle into the park with an assortment of superb stuff. That's the good news. The bad news is it's only good for about 24-36 hrs. We had our laundry done yesterday--22.2 lbs for \$10. Nicely done, clean, soft, folded, buttoned and pressed.

7 Mar

We depart The City this morning. The rally was completed yesterday with a potluck breakfast, biz meeting and dinner at a very nice restaurant down town. We voted to go to the Copper Canyon next year, date not firm, but probably in March. Got the rig washed for 50P while I took a siesta. The dinner was superb with live seven-person band and seven course meal.

We have a group of 4 or 5 headed for Guanaunto, Guadalajara, Los Mochas and Guaymas coming out in Nogales. We'll probably leave the group in Los Mochas, leave the rig in a campground and take the train into the Copper Canyon. Remain over tonight to take a 4 WD trip into the bottom of the canyon to see villages where indians still live .

8 Mar

The drive to Guanajuato was one of the best so far. Started on 57, a toll road to 45 and then a little narrow back country road that is the REAL Mexico. We were in the mountains; superb vistas and a pleasant change from the smog and traffic of the city. In one small village we had to stop while a herd of goats crossed the road. Lots of burro's carrying loads of wood and goods.

Got to the campground around 1400, had lunch and set up. A lady in another group had gone to the back of their class A to take a nap while her husband drove. When they got to the campground he found her UNconscious in the corner of the bedroom. He got her up on the bed but she was having trouble breathing. We got her up on her feet and out to a recliner. A nurse in our group checked her out. Suspected concussion from a fall. She had a big knot on her head. A few hours after we arrived she was up and about and is touring in town today.

We had dinner at the campground restaurant. Nice food and presentation/service/with drinks, 75P/couple. I love this place! The views from the campground are GREAT and you can see for 30 miles in all directions!

This morning we took the bus into town, 6P/couple. First stop Museo De La Alhondiga, 30P each. A huge building that started life as a grain storage facility, then a fort during the revolution and is now a museum. The town is an old silver mining area with so much history and landmarks that the entire town has been declared a National Heritage! It will take several days to see it all, and we're off to a great start.

Travels with Roger and Brenda McFillen in Mexico (Cont'd)

10 Mar

Guanajuato was a great place that we will visit again to see the mine and all the places we missed. Left camp a little before 9 and got here at 1430. Very nice site with full hookups, but the voltage is low.

The drive today was superb. Mostly "cuota" or toll roads, four lane divided. We drove thru pineapple country; rich red dirt just like Hawaii and agave, lots of it. Fact of the day: If the liquor made from the agave comes from Sinaloa, it's tequila. If it comes from any OTHER state in Mexico it must be called Mescal! and there are many grades/qualities of both.

Great views. Drove thru an ostrich ranch with lots of birds. Looked like the toll road just about split it in half. For those tracking our route, we took MX 45 - MX 80D -MX90D and the bypass around Guadalajara to MX15 (MX80), a little over 215 miles. We spent \$36 dollars on tolls and \$45 dollars in fuel. At the speeds these big class A's drive, 50-60 mph, we're getting 16 MPG!

We'll be here two days and then on to Mazatlan and Los Mouchas. After we got settled in camp we went to the World's Largest WalMart SuperCenter. Took some pictures--38 check out lanes! Had everything we needed except a battery for Brenda's watch, so for \$5 we got her a PINK digital that Courtney can use.

11 Mar Tlaquepaque

(Tiah-keh-pah-keh) A few minutes from Guadalajara's downtown. It is an artisan community that produces the greatest variety of artwork and handcrafts in Mexico. Restored old plazas on streets with big beautiful houses are now a lengthy pedestrian tourist area.

Lunch at the NO NAME cafe. Too typical to describe, but the pictures will explain. Peacocks wandered the dining area. Tortilla soup has become the standard we measure cafes/restaurants by. It was superb again today as was the main course. Cheese fondue was served in a lava rock aztec bowl in the form of some animal we've never seen.

The following day, 12 Mar, we headed for Mazatlan, a 300-mile trip thru the mountains. Great drive, \$45 worth of toll roads, but superb views. Some of it was like driving the Blue Ridge Parkway or Skyline Drive looking down into smoke/haze filled valleys. Saw lots of sugarcane and more agave.

We're down to a party of three and this morning we're NOT taking the toll road to Los Mouchs, we're going on the LIBRA! Will have to take some toll roads to get to the campground we're all meeting at tonight. Al and Pat split off and we're headed to Copper Canyon with the Tirk's, Bob and Ann. Looking forward to a day on our own at our own pace where we can stop and see whatever we want!

13 March - Los Mouchis

We arrived here at 1530. Al and Bob took the Codia (toll rd) from Mazatlan, we took the Libra and got here 10 minutes after they arrived! Loved being on our own to stop and see whatever we wanted. Still spent 60P in tolls, one that didn't show on our NEW maps!

We're off to a new park 42 miles N of here tomorrow for a day of rest, laundry and make arrangements for our Copper Canyon visit via train. Mexico 15 all the way today. Not as scenic as yesterday, but saw some neat stuff. Great road, little to no traffic except in the towns. Speed limit most of the time was 80K. The trucks, buses and others were running 15-20 over that, so I just picked a truck or bus and followed it about 1/4 - 1/2 mile back and we averaged 82.4k for the time we were driving. Not bad for an old guy in a new truck. Love the way it handles the mountains, curves and hills. That Allison tranny is worth what I paid for it! The octane rating of diesel down here is 2-4 points higher than it is up north, so we're getting 16-17 MPG and it runs cooler on the hills. Fuel went up two cents, it's now 4.90P/lit ; so it's still cheaper than what we were paying when we left.

It snowed more this afternoon and got colder while we visited a museum and did some shopping. Our room is nice and warm, but we froze our butts off walking a block to dinner. We only get 3 TV channels and they are all in Spanish, soooo it's time for bed. 0900 launch tomorrow!

21 Mar - Mexico Messages

We haven't been able to get PocketMail to work for the last 4 days, so we'll hold what's left till after we get across the border to some phones that work.

Nice weather here in El Fuerte. We paid for two more days and get a 7th for free, so we'll stay thru Fri and leave Sat the 22nd. Bob and Ann hooked into their neighbor's satellite system and we watched CNN this evening over beer and popcorn. Have heard there are long lines at the border, so we'll take our time and let them get their stuff together up there before we cross at Nogales; or we may just cool it up there for a while before we cross some time next week.

21 Mar - San Carlos

We're in the El Mirador RV park in San Carlos overlooking the Sea of Cortez. Great views and cafe. Will be here a few days. Nice digs.

Heard on the news that Black Forest got 4' of snow. This park has cable hook ups at each site. One of the channels is Ch. 7 in Denver (ABC) so we heard about all the roofs in the Denver/Boulder area that caved in, but nothing on El Paso County. Will call tomorrow and check with friends.

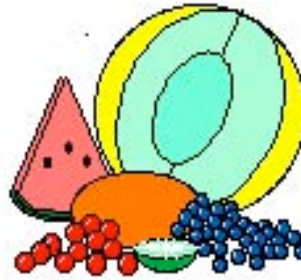
Drove thru some nice farm land today. Saw wheat, corn, sunflowers and orange trees! Ya don't see that in Kansas Toto!
(Final installment next newsletter!)

**2004 COLORADO
ESCAPEES LUNCHEON SCHEDULE**

**COLORADO SPRINGS LUNCHEONS
Chapter 4 Hosts**

May, Jun, Jul, Aug, and Sep

2nd Monday 11:30 am, Country Buffet,
751 N. Academy Blvd., between Galley & Platte, in Citadel
Crossing (between K-Mart & Best Buy)



All Escapees and wannabes are invited to the monthly luncheons. Come meet with your friends for food and fun.

SOUTH DENVER LUNCHEONS

Chapter 4 Hosts

Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep

4th Tuesday, 11:30, Country Buffet,
7475 Park Meadows Dr, Littleton (C-470 & Quebec, south-
behind Pep Boys and before Sam's on left)

BUENA VISTA LUNCHEONS

Chapter 2 Hosts

May to Sep

3rd Tuesday - 1 p.m.

Jan's Restaurant, 304 US Hwy 24,
Buena Vista

NORTH COLORADO LUNCHEONS

Chapter 4 Hosts

For dates and location e-mail or call
Ken Keeler, #40065, kencherie@jymis.com
970-667-1202

GRAND JUNCTION LUNCHEONS

Chapter 2 Hosts

2nd Tues - 1200 noon, May to Sep
Golden Corral, 1100 Independent Ave
On Hwy 6 & 50, in front of Sam's Club

S. Krohn (Mt Echoes)
159 Rainbow Dr #5915
Livingston, TX 77399-1059

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