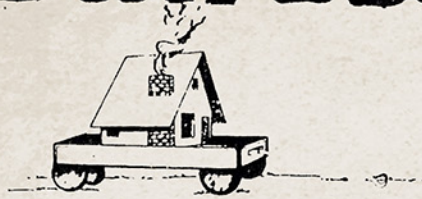


ESCAPEES

August 15, 1978



A Club for Full-time RoVers

Comments by Kay:

The objective of the newsletter is exchanging of information. We'll try to keep within the weight limit of first class postage so there won't be an additional charge either for this initial mailing or for those of you who use a mail forwarding service.

Our first order of business was to select a name for our club from the many excellent suggestions. Several of you even went to the trouble of sending art work that could be used as a logo for your idea. A number of the suggestions contained the idea of freedom in the name. We finally selected "Escapees: Club for full-time RoVers." "Escapees" was suggested by Harry and Peggy Lewis. They also included a catchy abbreviation of S-K-Ps, and said the letters could also stand for "Senior Kinetic Persons." This lends to the image of retired people. But in reviewing the ages of our membership to date, I discovered a startling fact. WE ARE NOT ALL RETIRED. Of the present 100 adult members I found:

<u>Under 30</u>	<u>30-40</u>	<u>40-50</u>	<u>50-60</u>	<u>60-65</u>	<u>over 65</u>
10	9	21	37	18	5

In addition, we presently have 9 children actually traveling with their parents. So we need a slogan for S-K-Ps that compliments the Escape idea, yet includes all age groups. Anyone got an idea? The second part of the name (club for full time RoVers) was suggested by George and Bunny Kemp. Both couples will receive a lifetime membership. To the rest of you who sent in suggestions--my thanks.

Just over one half of the members have indicated an interest in health insurance. We're going to try to find a reputable company that will insure us in a Group Policy for a reasonable premium. However, David Peterson, one of our members, is the branch manager for a life insurance company in Kansas. Although his company does not sell Medical Insurance, David took the time to explain why it will be difficult to find a carrier. In part, David writes: "The first thing we have to realize is that Insurance Companies is not the horn of plenty. For a certain premium an Insurance Co. will assume a certain amount of risk. To define the risk, they use median average age, geographical location, environment etc....With the exception of full-timers, most people have some form of Medical Insurance at Home Base. What remains, then, of the full-timers is a High Risk group with an average age over 40 and heavy toward the age 60 group. Actuarial Tables say 'after 40 it's medical maintenance all the way.' With this group there is no way the risk could be spread so the consequent premium would be extremely high. In short, we'd be trading dollars and adding administrative costs to boot....I hate to be pessimistic, but the answer (and heaven help us) will be a further extension of Medicare. England and many European countries have cradle to grave insurance. I've seen how it worked in Sweden in 76 and I say no thanks. I'll pay my way rather than wait for 2 weeks before I can see a doctor as my uncle had to do."

Thanks, David. Sharing ideas, opinions, and knowledge is what this newsletter is all about.



If you have a problem--or the solution to one--this is the place to ask for, and to give, help.

Luella Wilson says: Are you familiar with a Dazey Seal-A-Meal bagger? It's a good way to package left-overs so they won't break in the refrigerator while traveling.

In her article "65 Ways to Stretch Your Livability" (Trailer Life, May 1977) Del Kruse says: "Clear plastic boxes in high cupboards allow you to see contents without removing them." Any member wishing a copy of this excellent article may write to Del Kruse, 407 Highway 19 North, Winona Missouri 65588. Del did not request it, but you should send 50¢ to cover the cost of printing, mailing, and handling.

One of the main problems full-timers seem to encounter is how to get cash while traveling away from the area where they bank. Anyone found a good solution for this problem that you'd like to share with us?

What's Your Handle?

Harry and Peggy Lewis suggested that CB handles be listed in the directory. Anyone wishing this information to appear along with his name and address should send the information to me as soon as possible. CB handles are always somewhat of a mystery. For instance, Harry uses the handle "Hoghead" which he explains is a term used for a railroad locomotive engineer. Harry was at one time associated with Southern Pacific Co. How about you other CBers? If your handle has a story behind it, want to share it with us?

Saving Money is always of interest. If you've a suggestion that could benefit others, tell us about it!

Favorite Parks:

This feature was suggested by Floyd and Martha Pousha. If you've found a special campground or park, drop me a line. It would be helpful if you'd include the price if it rents by the month.

Bud and Sandy Smith found parks in the Disneyland area in southern Calif. were extremely high as well as crowded. Sandy writes: "We finally found one that was reasonable. It is managed by a lovely couple who are super accomodating. It's an older park and not too big, so you aren't rule-bound or constantly being hassled. It's Anaheim Junction Campground, 1230 West Street, Anaheim, Calif."

Hobby Corner:

The sharing of hobbies was suggested by several members. If you have an interesting hobby, write and tell us about it. Be sure to include whether or not your hobby has been a means of earning extra income. We'll insert this section whenever space permits.



Saving Money is always of interest. If you have any suggestions that others could benefit from, send them along.

ROAD ROAMERS

"Road Roamers" was suggested as a club name by Robert & Annette Bridges. It will be the title of this section that is dedicated to those who wish to share where they are & what they are doing. Late items will be held till next letter.

Bennett, Craig & Carolyn: We think this type of club is a great idea. We have traveled throughout the U.S. in the last 5 years, but gave up the full time RV life because of problems we encountered. This type of organization with a common goal and common problems will be a tremendous help in the future. In 1975 we sold our trailer, moved back to Maine, and built a new home. But there has to be more to life than 50 weeks of work with a 2-week vacation! The desire to see more of the U.S. is still with us. Now we've purchased a 24' Airstream and are making plans to sell our home.

Brennen, Harry & Flo: We've been living in our 31' Avion in the same town where we had a home. We sold the house to save money on interest etc. until retirement - then 18 mos away. Our income will be much less after Sept. 30 so we'll need to work (odd jobs). We're both active in Avion Travelcade Club.

Bridges, Robert & Annette: We sold our house and bought a 29' Coachman to live in permanently. We moved into it in October, 1977 with the intention of starting to travel in Jan. of '78. Then we discovered Annette's father had cancer. We felt we couldn't leave so Robert took a job at a mill. Although we've lived in our trailer 9 months, we haven't left our hometown! Annette's father is doing better now, and we hope to be on the move in August or September. Wish us luck!

Day, Lewis & Peggy: Lewis does layout & design of art for printed matter. We are fulltimers and live in an Excello 500 Airstream. Have spent the past few months in Garden Grove, Calif. (Ed. note--Lewis sent me the art work to dress up our newsletter. Thanks, Lewis.)

Denomme, Ted & Mary: Although we aren't full-timers yet, we're hoping to take an early semi-retirement next spring. We'll be in our mid fifties. By working part of the year we can afford to go full time. We have a 23' Wilderness which we tow with a 1966 Toyota Landcruiser. (Ed. note--Anyone who has found semi-retirement the solution for those who can't afford full retirement is encouraged to write to the Denommes at P.O. Box 5594, Mission Hills, CA 91345.)

Ferguson, Ron & Carolyn: We're looking forward to many new friends through this newsletter. Ron retired June 30, 1978 for full-time travel with his co-pilot (Carolyn) of 40 years and Missy, the mutt, one organ, melodica, a truck full of tools, and a Yamaha 200. We'll be traveling Alaska and over USA.

Fuller, Bernie & Ruth: At this writing we've been full-timing for 24 hours, but already we feel as if the weight of the world has been lifted from our shoulders...it's truly amazing how we allow ourselves to become tied-up with "things" isn't it? Our plans are vague at this point. We have a general idea of where we will be, but haven't tied ourselves to a schedule yet. The only must do item is a bit of time in Ariz. & New Mexico with the Indians so Bernie can finish his book. We'll spend the summer in New York, Conn., Maine, Kentucky, and then on to the southwest. (Ed. note--Be sure and let us know when your book is published, Bernie. A lot of us would like to read it.)

Hafner, Bob & Ruth: Bob, "51" has just retired from the Yakima (Washington) Fire Dept. He, Ruth "44" and a Chinese Poodle named Fuzzie have joined the full-timing lifestyle. They traded a mobile home, a pickup, a car, and a Winnabago motorhome for a '78 Toyota crew cab pickup and a 32' Holiday Rambler motorhome. They plan to stay a portion of the winter months at Ariz. lakes as both are avid fishermen. They'll be traveling the U.S., Alaska, and Canada.

Horey, Mike & Betty: Mike is still working at his trade of Ironworker. His home local is #433 in Los Angeles. But presently we are in West Richland, Wash. and hope to stay awhile. We usually go to So. Calif. in the winter. We're enjoying Wash. as our daughter lives in Tacoma. We also have one in So. Calif. Our CB handles are Iron Mike & Party Doll. Give us a shout someone.

Johnson, Junior & Esther: Since we like to go camping we decided to buy a 27' Dreamer and live in it. Now we can hook up and go whenever we want & have everything with us. We've been living in our trailer for a year and find it satisfies our needs. We are real happy with trailer living. (Ed. note-- Junior is a machinist and still working.)

Kirka, John & Micki & Brian: We wish to thank the Petersons for the opportunity to become involved in a very special club for a very special group of people. The ups and downs, the joys and the problems of the full-time lifestyle are unlike any found in the "other way" to live. There isn't a problem that can't be solved. Like who to ask for assistance. The club is just that place. See? One problem solved already. The opportunity to find and write to others who enjoy the freedom that on-the-move living offers is a big step for all of us. We also hope to attend the first and all future Rallies that can be organized. Our castle is a 25' Ardon 5th-wheel and we tow with a 3/4ton crew cab red-and-white pickup. Look for the "Rainbow's End!" The coffee pot and chow-bib are always on. Stop by and chat a bit...Correspondence welcome also. Brian is 13 and will write to any teenagers that are traveling the states as we are. May all our paths cross in the near future. (Ed. note--Brian has offered to submit a "Kid's Eye View" starting with the next newsletter.)

Kruse, Wally & Del: Three cheers for a full-timers club! We are "transitory" full-timers with no other home than a trailer for the past 6 years. Five years in an Airstream and now in a custom Boles Aero. Wally has been installed 78/79 National Boles Aero President. A full-timer club would have been so much help to us in the past. Now we have experience to pass on to you beginners.

Lewis, Harry & Peggy: Mid 50's couple. Both have worked at a broad variety of clerical jobs, mainly in San Francisco area. Have 3 grown children & 7 grandchildren. Been RVing about 8 years--& had a 5th-wheel for 5 (Harry's Big Thing). We'll be on the road about Feb, 1979--or earlier depending on how long it takes to complete selling our house. The third member of our group is Heide, a beautiful, tho' small, Alsatian (German Shepherd) who always goes with us. Our CB handles are Hoghead & Grandma.

Little, Earl & Rose: We're presently in Pueblo, Colorado where Earl is working (electrician) in town. With our cockerpool aptly named "Tramp" we roam around in a 35' Kountry Aire 5th-wheel. Just bought a new Chevy pickup.

McHenry, Fred & Olivia: Fred was an educator for the first part of his working life. Now he sells educational products. Olivia is a checker for Alpha Beta grocery stores. We've been living for the past year in our 31' Boles Aero in preparation for the day we retire. Getting closer! Our D-day is March 1, 1979.

Peterson, Dave & Lorelei: We'll begin full-timing as soon as we sell our house in Lewiston, Idaho. Both of us were born (in the month of May) and raised in Idaho. Dave is 63 and Lorelei is 59. We've been married 37 years this August, have 3 children & 5 grandchildren. Dave is an ex Radio announcer and Sales Manager for a radio station. Has owned 5 drugstores & been in partners on 3 others. More recently branch manager for Kansas City Life Ins. Co. He'll still write occassional policies. Lorelei is a secretary who works part time for Dave. Now she'll take over the job of Copilot when they buy their Motorhome. Lorelei is an ex harpist & studied at the Cornish School of Fine Arts in Seattle. Both of us look forward to taking an active part in all the club activities.

Peterson, Joe and Kay: Many of you already know us from my book. We have just traded our worn-out Airstream for a 34' Avion. With 3 axles no less! Joe has gone back to work (FINALLY) on a power house construction in Craig, Colorado. We expect to be here until Sept. 30th. If you're in the northwest corner of Colorado drop by and visit us. We're in space # 241 (Sequoia St) at Shadow Mountain Village, Craig, Colorado 81625. The coffee pot is always on.

Pousha, Floyd & Martha: In May, 1977 we sold our condominium & most of our worldly possessions & moved into a 31' Avion. We lived through the blizzard of '78 with no frozen pipes or frayed tempers. We left Michigan in June for a 2 month tent camping trip through Penn., N.Y., & Mass. We'll return in late Sept. to pick up the Avion & head south until cross-country skiing starts in Gaylord, MI where we'll stay in a KOA campground.

Rensen, Jerry & Linda: We solved the home base problem by converting a 2-car garage into an apartment in our daughter's home.

Schneider, Roland & Ruth: We've been Airstreaming for the past 12 years, and now we are in our mid 40's & looking forward to when we can start full-timing. Our oldest daughter, 21, has 1 more year of college. Our 18-year-old daughter will move out next month. So our target date is Jan '80.

Valentine, Charlie & Menetta: After military retirement, worked as aircraft electrician in Civil Service. Degenerative arthritis limited me from working on Aircraft so turned to the Enviromental field. I now operate water & waste water plants in Florida. As soon as my 13-year-old daughter finishes high school, I'll retire and we'll go full-timing.

Waterman, Chuck & Jean: We've just sold our condimium and furnishings & are preparing to full time it in a 31' Pace Arrow motorhome. We're both 57 & were both raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We met in high school & have 4 (grown) children. We'll leave here Oct 1st and head for Georgia. After that, we aren't sure what direction we'll go. See you down the road.

Young, Bruce & Frances: Bruce still works as an electrician part of each year. We'll leave Calif. in July to go to Klamath Lake, Oregon. In Sept. we'll head for Penn to visit relatives & spend some time with our children & grandchildren. Then on to Georgia for deer hunting in Nov. In addition to our 31' Holiday Rambler (TT) we have an 8' camper for weekending & boondocking. It gets us into the places where trout fishing is at its best.

The Working Nomad:

Since finding ways to earn money as you travel is of importance to so many of us, this section will be so that we can share ways we've found to do this. I'll start it off by telling you about a new book that gives tips on where to find flea markets, how to set prices, and other information valuable to sellers.

"The Flea Market and Garage Sale" by Irene Copeland. Published by Popular Library, NY, it sells for \$1.75 and can be ordered through your local bookstore.



Day's End

by Lewis Day

This feature will tell you where you can send for information on a variety of subjects including where to go and what to see.

The most popular publication of the Interior Department's National Park Service is "Camping In the National Park System." The new 1978 pocket-sized edition has now been released and is available for \$1.40. Make check or money order payable to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402. The GPO number is 024-005-00700-8.

"Camping in the National Park System" offers information on fees, visitor regulations, safety, & back-country camping. It contains a tabular listing of the services and facilities found in more than 400 campgrounds in 100 park areas from Alaska to the Virgin Islands.

May all our paths cross somewhere on down the road

Kay Peterson, Editor

