



# TRAILER TRACKS

## Rally to Revive the Spirit of Chapter 9

*By Rick DeYoung*

The recent passing of Kay Peterson, who with her husband Joe founded our wonderful Escapees organization, and started the formation of regional Chapters like our Oregon Trails Chapter 9, has prompted many of us Escapees to recognize how much has changed in the past 30 years. This is especially true of our Chapter, which 30 years ago built our beautiful Timber Valley RV Park and subsequently donated it to the cooperative known as SKP Park of Oregon.

I am suggesting that it would be an appropriate tribute to Kay Peterson, and to those Chapter 9 pioneers who built this park 30 years ago, for our Chapter 9 members to revive the spirit that existed then. Can you imagine someone showing up 30 years ago and telling Maxine Riddell and her husband, or Norm and Barb Sherman, that "I'm just here to retire and don't care to participate in the Chapter's activities"? Maxine is now 90 and still going strong (including membership in Chapter 9) and will be Grand

Marshall of this year's Timber Valley 4th of July celebration, although she will soon be embarking on another chapter in her life. No matter what your plans are for this 4th of July, please take some time to participate, and to thank, and to honor our founders!

An article on the life of a co-op was circulated in Timber Valley recently and it pointed out that many who come later do not share the pride and satisfaction by those who built the co-op, because they weren't there from the beginning. But, I suggest to you, this can be easily remedied: Participate now in our park's activities, including those of Chapter 9. On behalf of Chapter 9, I ask each of you to attend our Park's upcoming annual meeting, to sign up to participate in our park's committees and participate in our Fun Days activities. Together, we can - and must - revive the spirit of our founders in order to help one another through what for many are difficult times. Experience the joys our Chapter 9 members fondly remember.

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### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Chapter 9 members meet the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m., during breakfast, at Abby's Legendary Pizza, 1011 W. Central Avenue in Sutherlin, Oregon.

A signup sheet is located in the Timber Valley SKP clubhouse, as we need to know by Tuesday how many are planning to be there.

**All Escapees  
are welcome!**

*Trailer Tracks created by  
Jackie Deal and friends!*

# HISTORY of CHAPTER 9 & TIMBER VALLEY

## History continues... from sea to shining valley!

*By Jackie Deal*

It is interesting that nearby Oakland had been considered for the park. Oakland, however, wasn't sure they wanted the park. Betty Hyndman remembers Oakland feared "those old men might rape our young girls." In Oakland's defense it was in 1981 that the Rajneeshees were deported after committing criminal offences in Eastern Oregon. Oakland (and also Sutherlin) feared that the Escapees might be another dangerous sect.

The following information comes from old reports given by our Chapter 9 reporters in the Escapees newsletters of the late 1980s.

Early 1986 Vel Boge introduced the idea of a co-op designed to "utilize the beautiful Oregon land and trees to create an "Oregon Park concept". This was after members rejected the coast sites and before they had seen our beautiful hillside site.

Who was Vel Boge? He was vice president. The president was Verne Hansen, feasibility chair was Ed Strieger, membership survey chair was Doris Field and by-laws chair was Bill Field. Before May, 1988 the Land Search Committee (Roy and Virginia Adams and Bill and Jean Moss) were looking in the Willamette Valley. Members surveyed (by Doris Field) wanted "near a small town" with city sewer, 50 amp, phones and cable TV, storage sheds, and laundry. In the May-June 1988 newsletter Harry Lewis, Secretary, reports, "The place is SUTHERLIN. 90 acres. Land costs work out to \$544 per lot for 150 lots. A great price in a town that wants us!" Can't you see the excitement in his capital letters and the exclamation point?

March 1988, a dispatch from the committee reiterated, "The Land Search Committee found a wonderful piece of property for our park. By unanimous vote, the board has approved buying the site." (pg.1) On page 3, "The property which sold for

\$300,000 several years ago, will cost us \$81,600. This works out to \$544 per lot for 150 lots." (Yes, it's worth repeating the great buy that Chapter 9 made!)

Oct. 15, 1988, the news was "The 90.19 acres will cost \$80,000" plus additional costs "for a total of \$90,031 (pg. 1).

Use your imagination and let's go back to 1988 when the place and the price were announced. You're at a Chapter 9 SKP rally in Cottage Grove, Oregon when you hear the exciting news, "There's a spot in Sutherlin. Big! Just right! We can get it for our park."

Eagerly you join a caravan heading south some 40 miles to the tiny town of Sutherlin. Not many businesses. Lots of vacancies on the dreary main street. A town that desperately needs something to invigorate it. Population about 4,000. Of course it's raining, after all, this is Oregon.

Turn off Central Avenue onto South State Street (A rather pretentious name for an unpaved road, don't you think?)

Your tires crunch on the gravel and the windshield wipers slap back and forth. The few houses are small and dreary. Neighboring Meadows Park is just that, a meadow.

You wind on up the hill (the current drive into Timber Valley does not exist). On up the hill and around the curve to where the street now ends by Site #1.

What do we see? Next month, we'll tell you.

### **Time To Pay Chapter 9 Annual Dues**

Annual Dues are only \$5 per person or \$10 per Couple and are due now. Pay to Veanna Fletcher, Treasurer Timber Valley Lot 86

# Pictures from the Elkton Rally ~ Elkton Community Educational Center; Butterflies & Fort Umpqua

