



# TRAILER TRACKS

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## MONTHLY MEETING

Chapter 9 members meet the second Wednesday of each month at 9 am, 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!**

Other Chapter 9 events will be announced in *Trailer Tracks* or on the Chapter 9 page of our website,  
[www.timbervalleyskp.com](http://www.timbervalleyskp.com)

## Hope You're Doing Well!!!

*By Betty Bush*

Hi everyone, hopefully this finds all of you coping with the virus situation. There isn't much to report since there were no activities for the months of March, April, May and June. Did you think we got lost? Maybe spending all our time washing our hands! Thankfully, Timber Valley has fared very well without one case! Congrats to everyone. Glad to see our Snow Birds returning.

Now that we have entered Phase II we will celebrate July 4th but there will not be a July Rally. Chapter 9 and Jack and Jill will co-sponsor the day. All Escapees are invited. We will start with coffee and doughnuts gabfest in the clubhouse. The annual 4th of July Golf Cart Parade, those

participating traditionally decorate their carts in a patriotic theme and bring wrapped candy to give out to the observers. Chapter 9 will need help arranging music to be played during the parade. The Picnic in Snoopy's Meadow will be hosted by Chapter 9 and Jack and Jill. Please bring your own meat to grill, we will provide potato salad, coleslaw, assorted chips, water, soda and ice. And of course, you can bring your beverage of choice.

We will resume our monthly breakfast at Abby's on July 8, staggered 8:30 to 10:30, sign up and instructions will be in the clubhouse.

## Memories of Chapter 9/ Timber Valley

*by Larry Heath*

Use your imagination and let's go back to 1988. You're at Chapter 9 rally in Cottage Grove, Or. 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 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 of Central Ave onto South St (A rather pretentious name for an unpaved road, don't you think?)

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

You wind up the hill (the drive to Timber Valley does not exist. On top of the hill and around the curve to where the street now ends at Site 1.

With about 40 others you peer through the wetness and all you see is a muddy mess. A meadowed hillside, scrubby brush, a few dreary trees, cans, bottles, the left behind of lover's lane. And everywhere mud. There were hidden springs adding to the rain sluicing down the hill. There were also wild rose bushes. Not everyone was overwhelmed by the mud.

Jackie McLaughlin saw wild roses and she writes, "When Harold and I first started traveling full time all around the country we kept hearing about Escapees, their parks and co-ops, we were interested in a homebased in the Northwest. Soon we were hearing about groups searching for sites in Washington and Oregon so we signed up for both of them."

There were over 200 names on the list, interested in 150 sites originally planned for Sutherlin. We attended a rally at Dorena Lake, near Cottage Grove where we were all parked on a lawn and after the rally we had to be towed out of the mud.

We drove out of the sloping grassy site at the end of State Street and parked. We could not drive onto the site itself because it had no roads and was too muddy. We parked at the end of the road and walked out there. There were many streams and wild rose and Hawthorne blooming. I thought it was beautiful. I imagined sites carved out of the sloping ground with the natural setting left between them. Of course, a lot of ground was moved to make level terrace areas for 206 sites we eventually built.

## In Memoriam, Ed Bonham

*by Jackie Deal*

Music was his world. Music was his life. It was his love. He loved the musicians he played with and he loved the audiences for whom he played. And they loved him back.

Ed Bonham died in the hospital at Lake Havasu, Arizona, on March 1, 2020. He was a wonderful man and a great talent, now forever lost. His death leaves a big hole in the fabric of the musical world of Sutherlin, Oregon and Quartzsite, Arizona.

Ed was born July 1, 1934, in Oklahoma. In High School in California he played in a three-piece dance band. His professional musical story begins in Modesto, California where he helped form the band "Night Train", which played for almost 22 years in California and the West Coast. After "Night Train" disbanded Ed formed "The Travelers", a band that played in Quartzsite, Arizona to about 100 dancers weekly. In the beginning Ed said they were playing "about 50 gigs a year. Too much. "The Travelers" played for another fifteen years. Ed says, "I never considered myself a musician but I've earned a living at it."

Ed brought together local musicians to form a great band that we enjoyed when they performed frequently here in our park. Ed's perfect guitar and pleasing yet powerful voice lead the group in many of the songs. Ruby Bonham, known as the band's "cookie lady" in Quartzsite,

played and sang with the band here. The "pick-up band", called themselves "4Bs and a J" for Bonham, Bonham, Nathan Brown, David Burns and Steve Jones.

One of the most moving moments was when at the conclusion of every performance, Ed sang his signature song "Why Me Lord?" In Quartzsite, over a hundred dancers would join in a circle around the dance floor, holding hands and swaying to the music. He sang that song from the depths of his heart and it will always be "Ed's song".

Ruby Bonham, Ed's beloved wife, plans to continue living in Timber Valley, where we welcome her and hope that she will find contentment and friendship to complement her memories of a super human being, Ed Bonham. We miss you, Ed.

## Becky's CORNER

I'm not sure about all y'all, but oh my stinkin' stars I've been busy. I became, as many of you know, manager at Roto-Rooter (need your RV tanks serviced??? We can do that! – Thursdays). I think that all those silly people who hoarded toilet paper must have used it...all at once and plugged their toilets! Hahaha.

And, I bought my house (and duplex). I really like it. It's quiet where I live, even though I'm really, super close to town. This is a recent moment of relaxation after work! (And, yes, it was a lovely bottle of Freed Estate Syrah!)



How can it be??? My grandson is nearly SIX MONTHS OLD!!! Oh my stars! (My grandson, you know! He has my heart!)

He is such a happy little guy with big bright eyes! <sigh> I'm grateful that I get to see him often!

This past week at Toastmasters, I gave a speech on being grateful and how even

in the darkest times, there's something to be grateful for. There's a verse that says "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord." THAT'S a promise that I'm watching for! 😊 I hope that during these past months you've all been well. Not only virus free, but truly well... now, let's get on with LIVING, eh??