

## Chapter Nine , Volume 1

What is Chapter Nine? For the uninitiated, chapters, rallies, parks etc. are very confusing. So let's start at the very beginning of Escapees Inc. Escapees started from something like what you now have in your hand: a newsletter! Kay Peterson wrote, on a manual typewriter, the first newsletter and sent it to her friends and rving acquaintances. RVers receiving it wanted to get together and thus were born Rallies. At Rallies folks discovered others from their area and formed groups called Chapters (there are now 57 chapters in the US).

We, the ninth chapter, were founded at a Rally in Casa Grande, AZ. in 1985 with Don and Pat Kuykendall as the "driving force". Rallies were the original purpose but early on, Chapter 9 wanted a home of its own: a retirees RV Park. RVers are by necessity independent and strongly determined individuals. Companionship might be desirable but compromise? Hardly.

And while rallies were jolly good fun, selecting a site for a permanent park was fraught with hassle. In 1986 at a rally in Bend, OR. the purchase of the Sutherlin, OR property was announced. (from 'Trailer Tracks" 1995).

But in between 1985 and 1986 much happened. The following information comes from Kay Peterson's "History of the Escapees Club". In 1986 a land search had begun: Mr. and Mrs. Olson (Secretary of Chapter 9) wanted a 20 acre parcel in Bandon. Others found sites from Astoria and south on the coast and even into the valley. Some were quite passionate about their choices.

During a meeting an "angry discussion" ensued. Mrs. Olson resigned and refused to turn over "secretarial records" and the names of those who had paid a \$20 registration fee. A notice published in the Escapees Inc. magazine asked those who'd paid to notify Escapees Inc. Because as they discretely said, "We fear some records may be lost". Those who dearly wanted the coast (and probably some who were appalled at the squabble) pulled out and membership dropped from 358 to 175 families.

So, how did we end up in Sutherlin, Oregon? Stay tuned!