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TRAILER TRACKS

 December 2022

VOL 29 ISSUE

Chapter 9 Officers

President: Jackie Deal

Vice Pres: Kathy Perry

Treasurer: Ed Spearse

Secretary: Rick DeYoung

COMING EVENTS

**Aug. 10** Breakfast at Abby’s.9 a.m. Members and non- members are welcome.

**DECEMBER**

**DEC 14:**  Breakfast at Abby’s ….9 a.m. (note new time)

**DEC 24**: 3p.m. Christmas Celebration. Jacks and Jills, Chap. 9 desert potluck & helping

**DEC 31:** New Year’s Eve celebration (to be announced)

**JAN. 18:** Spaghetti Dinner by Betty Bush (time to be announced)

This will be a CARE benefit. Watch for others throughout the year.

 THE PREZ SEZ

November saw a happy Hallowe’en party with a great attendance. Food, fun and Hallowe’en stunts entertained the largest group A.C. (after covid). Thanksgiving’s activities gave us all somethings to be thankful for and now we await Christmas, our next big holiday. There will be Christmas tree trimming and decorating. Janice Edwards is in charge of Christmas gifts for the children. Bring your unwrapped gifts and put them with the tons of toys that magically appear under our tree in the clubhouse. If you’re new to the park you will be amazed at what “Santa” puts under the tree. Betty Bush is in charge of making cookies for the firemen who come to collect the gifts for distribution. The toys will be picked up **Dec 9 at 10 a.m**. We can welcome them and share in the cookies too (I hope!) Cookies will go to our police department also.

Christmas Eve Day dinner will be managed by our new cook Denis Perkins, and hosted by Jackie Deal and Janice Edwards.The main course will be provided and deserts and side dishes pot-luck.

Sometime this winter we hope to visit our downtown museums. Rhonda Scott is looking into that for us. Again watch for announcements. And then there’s New Year’s Eve, Dec 31, when we’ll ring out the old and welcome a new, better 2023. Trudy Carron is in charge of arrangements for this event.

 ARE YOU S.A.D.?

A friend said of our brilliant gorgeous autumn leaves, “I hate those leaves. They tell me that the good weather is over.” How sad. But maybe she is beginning to experience S.A.D. Seasonal Affective Disorder is now recognized as a reality for some people. Severe cases involve depression and even suicidal thoughts; so if you have those see your doctor ASAP. However, many of us probably experience mild S.A.D. and treat it by semi-hibernating in winter. We want to stay in and not associate with others as we do in summer. Exercise decreases, weight piles on and we feel blue. What to do? Wait for summer? John Hopkins Hospital web site gives some practical ideas that we can try:

* Try to be with other people and confide in someone. It is usually better than being alone and secretive.
* Do things that make you feel better. Going to a movie, gardening, or taking part in religious, social, or other activities may help. Doing something nice for someone else can also help you feel better.
* Get regular exercise.

Timber Valley and Chapter 9 offer many activities and events; taking part in them might help you get through the winter months. Especially those of us who have been recently “grounded” (unable to go

A BIT OF HISTORY

What is a 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 in Casa Grand, AZ. in 1985 by snow birding Oregonians with Don and Pat Kuykendall as the “driving force”.

There were dreamers who coveted the valley that is now Timber Valley SKP park. Carl Keck, former manager of SKP park lived in Sutherlin at the time in the early 1980s when Fred Harringon was a local developer and “wheeler-dealer”.

 Mr. Harrington conceived of an elaborate and expensive development for the “super wealthy” to escape the dangers of the everyday world. Sutherlin’s city council first heard of the proposal on March 26, 1981 when “ Jerry Garner, representing Fred Harringon, showed plans for 300 condominium units, a 160 bed nursing home, 9 hole golf course, par 3 golf course, 4 lakes and a commercial center.” (From the SunTribune , the newspaper preceding the Douglas County News in Sutherlin, copies available in the public library).

 The newspaper went on to say, “ the $28 million development would be advertised in urban areas of New York and Florida with special emphasis on the security features of the project.. Leisure Valley (as they were calling it) would be entirely fenced and would employ a security force…to provide a secure retirement area for people in high crime areas. With housing units in the $150,000 range, the project would aim to attract retirees with incomes of $4,000 a month or more.” (In “purchasing power”, $4000 in 1981 is comparable to over $10,00 in 2014, or the “economic power” of $4000 is almost $21,000 according to measuringworth.com). In 1981 can’t you imagine the city council frothing at the mouth to get this influx of money?

 Bruce Daily, SunTribune editor in an editorial on March 26, 1981writes:” the project..will offer safety to seniors who have built up an estate that they have to protect with bars on the windows and multiple locks on the doors. That 460 people can be found who are willing to trade the fear of living in New York with Puerto Ricans, Miami with Cubans, or Los Angeles with Chicanos for the serenity of a secure community in peaceful Sutherlin as almost a sure bet.” (The blatant racism is in print in the Sun Tribune of March 26, 1981.)

May 28, 1981, the newspaper reported that the Sutherlin City Council gave “conceptual approval to Fred Harrington’s Leisure Valley development.As we know, the project failed;and so the little valley slept peacefully until 1988 when the SKPs discovered its potential.